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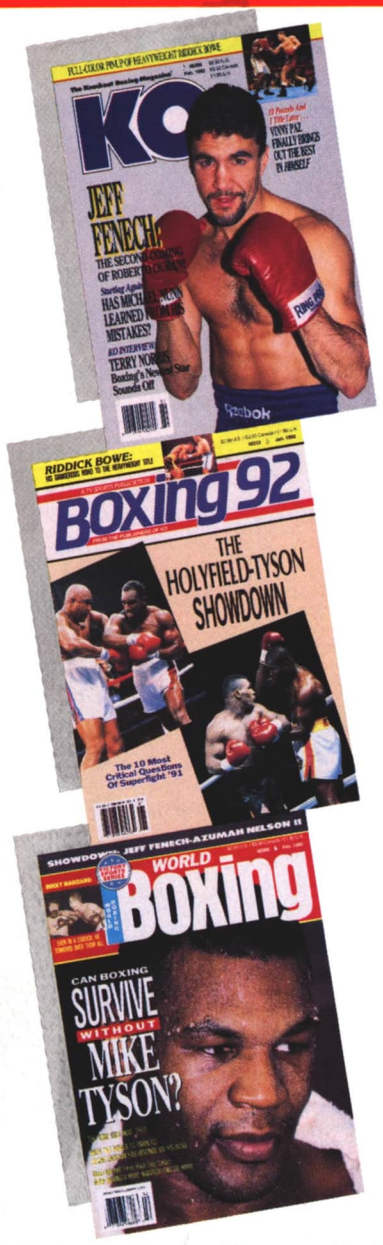

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Cover Photo By Darryl Coulman
Centerfold By Bill Apter

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Ringside

In 1991, our year-end issue, featuring 1990 Fighter of the Year Julio Cesar Chavez on the cover, was dated April. This year, it's dated May. Let me explain the missing month.

When it was announced last June that Evander Holyfield was going to defend the world heavyweight title against Mike Tyson on November 8, I circled the date for two reasons. Obviously, it was a fight I didn't want to miss. But I also knew that the winner would almost surely be *The Ring's* choice as 1991's Fighter of the Year. When the showdown was cancelled, we were forced to look elsewhere. But where? And you think the *Democrats* have problems finding legitimate candidates?

Only the calendar offered hope. James Toney was scheduled to defend the IBF middleweight title vs. Mike McCallum on December 13. Toney had already beaten Merqui Sosa, Michael Nunn, and Reggie Johnson, and an upset victory over McCallum would be a corking clincher. But waiting for the fight meant postponing the year-end issue for a month.

I'm glad we waited.

Toney and McCallum fought to a sensational 12-round draw, which, for the defending champion, was tantamount to a victory. Moreover, I scored for Toney, as did most of those at ringside. Toney may not yet be a superstar in the mold of a Chavez, Tyson, or Leonard, but he enjoyed a remarkable year, and was certainly deserving of Fighter of the Year honors.

WBC welterweight champion Buddy McGirt made for a solid runner-up. He scored only one significant victory, but his triumph over 5-2 favorite Simon Brown was surely the performance of the year.

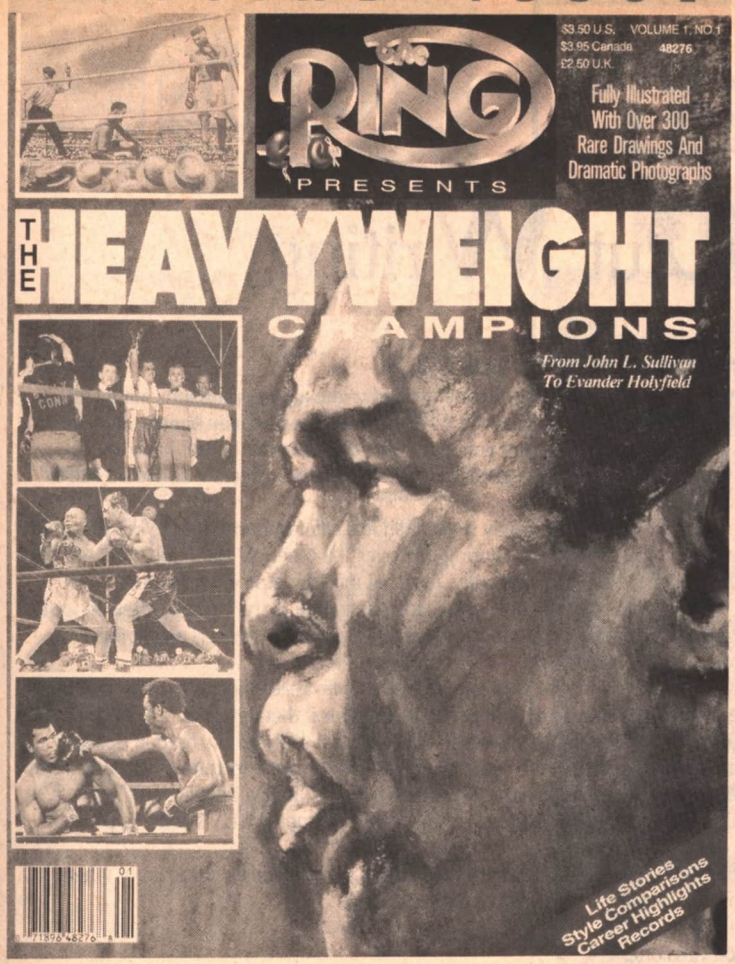
Fight of the Year? There was little spectacular to choose from. The editors of *KO*, the sister magazine of *The Ring*, selected Robert Quiroga's decision win over Kid Akeem. Tough to top that one. Three more brawls worthy of mention: Simon Brown KO 10 Maurice Blocker, Chris Eubank KO 12 Michael Watson, and Muangchai Kittikasem KO 12 Jung Koo Chang. (You can always count on me to acknowledge the little guys.)

Overall, it was an average 12 months at best. This year promises to offer more. Now if I could only guarantee Holyfield-Tyson, Chavez-Meldrick Taylor II, Toney-Julian Jackson, Jeff Fenech-Brian Mitchell, Riddick Bowe-Razor Ruddock, and Michael Carbajal-Humberto Gonzalez . . .

***

Editor's Note: As several readers have pointed out, in our March 1992 issue, *The Ring* incorrectly captioned an action photo as Joe Louis vs. Lou Nova (page 21). Louis' opponent was Abe Simon.

Steve Farhood
Editor-In-Chief



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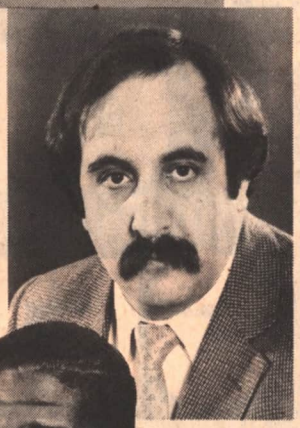
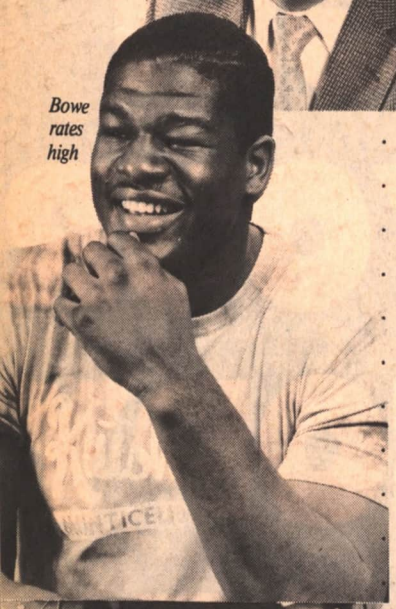


Cedric Kushner



Bowe rates high

Dempsey tests Ali's chin

THE PRESIDENT'S REPLY

In the January 1992 issue of *The Ring*, Steve Farhood wrote a paragraph indicating that an eye should be kept on Cedric Kushner and the IBF for enjoying a mutually beneficial relationship. I feel that I should respond by letting you know that the doors of the IBF have always been open for the promoters we have registered, and any new promoters who would like to become active in the business of boxing.

Since our inception, we have felt strongly that we should offer opportunities to boxers, promoters, managers, and officials without favoring one over the other. At the same time, we will not penalize any member who works diligently, and that includes a promoter who is active. Cedric Kushner has been extremely active with this organization in the United States, as well as abroad, and has taken advantage of opportunities that were there for any promoters, should they have elected to take them.

Because Mr. Kushner puts his money up and promotes is no reason for us to deny him the right to promote a boxing event. He cannot promote a fighter if that fighter is not contractually obligated to him, and [signing fighters] is something he apparently works hard at doing.

Our doors remain open, as they have been. We have had the good fortune of working with promoters worldwide. It is up to them as to how much activity they would like, and I have no intention of turning my back on Mr. Kushner, or any other promoter who is actively attempting to showcase our industry.

I would hope that you would give the active promoters some plaudits, particularly where there is no apparent indication of any impropriety.

ROBERT W. LEE
President and Commissioner
IBF/USBA

BOWE & LEWIS

In your monthly ratings, you rate heavyweight Riddick Bowe considerably higher than Lennox Lewis. Could you explain how you arrived at this conclusion? I don't see how Bowe's abilities or accomplishments are superior to those of Lewis.

ROBERT McCOOL
Merseyside, England

Editor's Note: Because both Bowe and Lewis are unbeaten and considerably talented heavyweights, the most significant factor in rating them becomes quality of opposition. Bowe has beaten a much better grade of fighter (Bert Cooper, Tony Tubbs, Bruce Seldon, Rodolfo Marin) than Lewis (Gary Mason, Mike Weaver, Tyrell Biggs), and looked good in doing so. Up to this point, at least, it's that simple.

BATTLE OF THE LEGENDS

Suggested matchups for "Battle Of The Legends": Bob Foster-Thomas Hearns (175 pounds); Roberto Duran-Pernell Whitaker (135); Mike Tyson-George Foreman; Jeff Fenech-Salvador Sanchez (126); Joe Frazier-Gene Tunney; Marvin Hagler-Marcel Cerdan (160); Jeff Chandler-Panama Al Brown (118); Wilfred Benitez-Julio Cesar Chavez (140); Rocky Marciano-Larry Holmes; Sugar Ray Robinson-Carlos Monzon (160); Sugar Ray Robinson-Henry Armstrong (147); Ken Norton-Sonny Liston; Muhammad Ali-Jack Dempsey.

DANNY BLOXSIDGE
Queensland, Australia

THE BEST FRENCHMAN

Do you really consider Marcel Cerdan as the greatest French fighter of all? France's greatest fighter was Georges Carpentier.

During Cerdan's time, the best middleweights were Jake LaMotta and Sugar Ray Robinson. After watching Robinson fight, Cerdan is rumored to have said that he was glad he had to defend against LaMotta, and not Sugar Ray. As it was, LaMotta stopped Cerdan.

Carpentier fought Jack Dempsey, and Cerdan *didn't* fight Robinson. For this, Carpentier shouldn't be punished, and Cerdan shouldn't be rewarded.

LICINIO FERRARESI
Bologna, Italy ■

May 1992 Volume 71, No. 5

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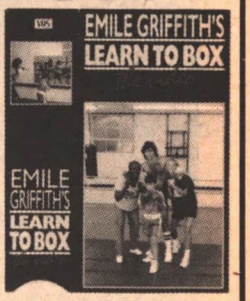

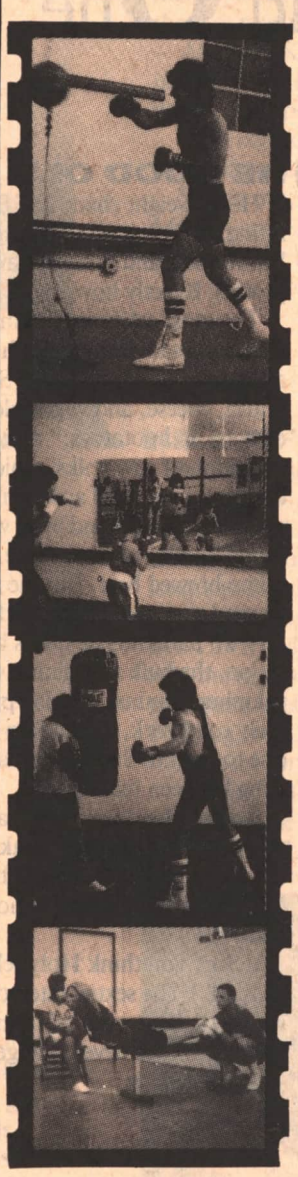

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Round One

THE GOOD OLD DAYS?

Heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield is a proponent of weight-lifting, carbohydrate-loading, and state-of-the-art cardiovascular training. But fighters and trainers haven't always believed in such a modern approach. Exactly how, then, did they do it in years gone by?

The most celebrated trainer of the early-19th century was Robert Barclay, a captain in the British military. Considered an expert on nutrition, the Scotsman prohibited butter, cheese, and vegetables, "such as turnips, carrots, and potatoes," as well as eggs, with the exception of raw yolks, which were to be standard morning fare. Veal and lamb were likewise forbidden, as was soup and even water. Among the few foods Barclay allowed were beef, stale bread, and home-brewed beer. But the amount of suds, he warned, "should not exceed three pints a day."

Daniel Mendoza

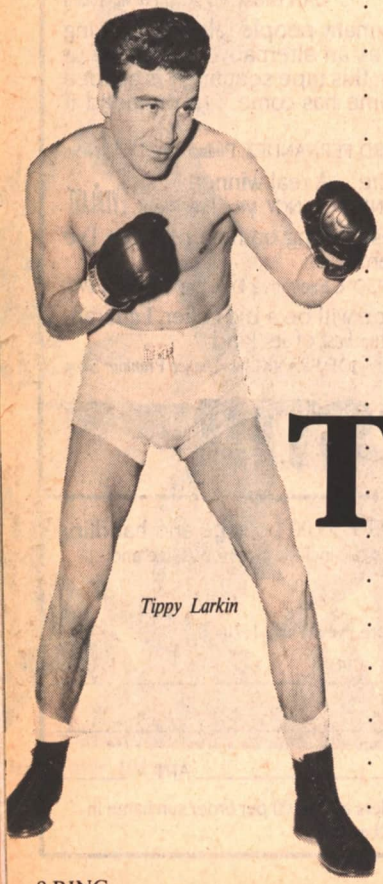
With bareknuckle bouts being of unlimited duration, the bulk of training was geared toward developing stamina. Barclay prescribed 23 miles of daily roadwork, 22 miles to be walked, and only one to be run. Sweating was also encouraged by lying between featherbeds.

Daniel Mendoza, the great 18th century heavyweight champion, recommended the following breakfast on the day of a fight: one slice of well-toasted bread, or a toasted hard white biscuit, and, "if not too strong for the constitution, a concoction of a tablespoon or brandy and half-a-pint of good red wine."

Before you think Holyfield is missing all the fun, consider that Barclay insisted, "The sexual intercourse must vanish and be no more heard of, within the first week of training."

Some things never change.

—Alan Shelton



Tippy Larkin

TIPPY LARKIN: 1917-1991

Tippy Larkin, recognized as world junior welterweight champion in 1946, died of kidney failure on December 10 in his native New Jersey. He was 74.

In April 1946, the 140-pound title, which had been dormant for 11 years, was reestablished by the Massachusetts State Boxing Commission. Larkin was matched with Willie Joyce, and after 12 demanding rounds, he secured the decision and the championship belt. In his only defense, he repeated his points victory over Joyce.

Born Anthony Pilleteri, master boxer Larkin fought from 1935 to 1952, and compiled a record of 136-16-1 (58) with 1 no-contest. He headlined at Madison Square Garden 19 times, and faced such world champions as Ike Williams, Beau Jack, Kid Berg, Red Cochrane, Lew Jenkins, and Henry Armstrong.

A MIXED MARRIAGE?

Over the course of his 10-year career, Razor Ruddock has been to trainers what Elizabeth Taylor has been to husbands. In fact, he's had seven different trainers over the past nine years.

At a Don King press conference in January, it was announced that Ruddock's new teacher is former heavyweight champion Floyd Patterson.

"I'm comfortable that he's going to listen to me," Patterson said.

Watch out, Floyd. Your two predecessors, Janks Morton and Slim Jim Robinson, had all kinds of problems with the Razor, including financial ones.

In other words, will he still love you tomorrow?

Patterson: Sharpening The Razor's edge

A HILL OF A MOVE

In one of the stranger stories of 1991, former WBA light heavyweight champion Virgil Hill temporarily moved from Las Vegas to Sydney, Australia. He is being trained by Johnny Lewis, and promoted by Bill Mordey, longtime members of Jeff Fenech's team.

"Just through conversing with Jeff, I learned how Mr. Lewis had said he could do some things with me to help me regain my championship," said Hill. The 175-pounder's likely target is WBC 175-pound titlist Jeff Harding, who, conveniently enough, happens to be Australian and formerly was trained by Lewis.

"I think out of all the world light heavyweight champions, he's the one that's being overlooked the most, which makes him the most dangerous," said Hill.

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

Trainer **Jim Kelly**, 54, died of a heart attack in his native Cleveland. "He was an excellent coach, the best in town, and an excellent guy," said lightweight **Tommy Hanks**, who was trained by Kelly . . . Veteran referee **Harold Valan**, 74, died in New Brunswick, New Jersey. According to his son Charles, Valan suffered from dementia puglisitica, as well as Parkinson's Syndrome . . . Former WBC heavyweight champion **Trevor Berbick** was arrested in December on charges of grand theft and mortgage fraud. According to published reports, the 39-year-old fighter is accused of having a woman impersonate his wife so that he could take out a $95,000 mortgage on his Miramar, Florida, home . . . Former junior middleweight contender **Charlie Weir**, 35, is suffering from cancer in his lymphatic glands and spine. The South African powerpuncher, who was kayoed by WBA champion **Davey Moore** in 1982, is recuperating at home in South Africa. ■

Trainer Billy Lotter with Charlie Weir

The Ring Ratings

For Period Ended January 14, 1992

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By *The Ring* Editors
Records Compiled By Eric Armit

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1 **EVANDER HOLYFIELD**
Atlanta, GA *26-0 (World Champ)*

2 **MIKE TYSON**
Catskill, NY *41-1*

3 **RIDDICK BOWE**
Brooklyn, NY *28-0*

4 **RAZOR RUDDOCK**
Canada *25-3-1*

5 **RAY MERCER**
Newark, NJ *18-0*

6 **GEORGE FOREMAN**
Marshall, TX *70-3*

7 **TIM WITHERSPOON**
Philadelphia, PA *35-3*

8 **TONY TUCKER**
Beverly Hills, CA *41-1*

9 **LENNOX LEWIS**
England *18-0*

10 **MICHAEL MOORER**
Detroit, MI *26-0*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 160 pounds

1 **JAMES TONEY**
Ann Arbor, MI *28-0-2 (IBF Champ)*

2 **MIKE McCALLUM**
Brooklyn, NY *42-1-1*

3 **JULIAN JACKSON**
Virgin Islands *42-1 (WBC Champ)*

4 **SUMBU KALAMBAY**
Italy *52-5-1*

5 **ROY JONES**
Pensacola, FL *16-0*

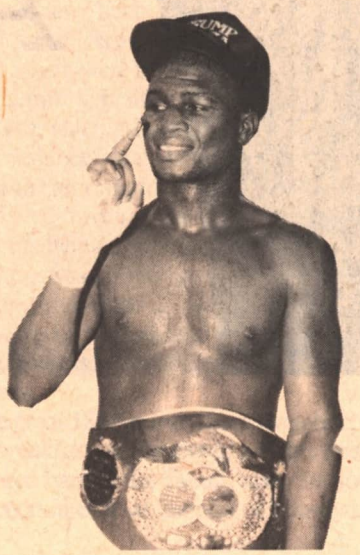
6 **STEVE COLLINS**
Brockton, MA *21-1*

7 **REGGIE JOHNSON**
Houston, TX *30-2-1*

8 **LAMAR PARKS**
Greeneville, SC *19-0*

9 **SEGUNDO MERCADO**
Puerto Rico *11-2*

10 **GERALD McCLELLAN**
Detroit, MI *23-2*



James Toney

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 154 pounds

1 **TERRY NORRIS**
Mission Valley, CA *30-3 (WBC Champ)*

2 **GIANFRANCO ROSI**
Italy *53-3 (IBF Champ)*

3 **VINNY PAZIENZA**
Cranston, RI *31-5 (WBA Champ)*

4 **JOHN DAVID JACKSON**
Tucson, AZ *24-0*

5 **VERNON PHILLIPS**
New York, NY *14-5*

6 **JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ**
Argentina *32-1*

7 **GILBERT DELE**
France *30-1-1*

8 **JORGE CASTRO**
Argentina *64-3-2*

9 **AARON DAVIS**
Bronx, NY *32-1*

10 **CARL DANIELS**
St. Louis, MO *26-0*

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 126 pounds

1 **PAUL HODKINSON**
England *19-1-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 **MANUEL MEDINA**
Mexico *40-3 (IBF Champ)*

3 **YUNG KYUN PARK**
South Korea *20-1-1 (WBA Champ)*

4 **TROY DORSEY**
Mansfield, TX *13-4-4*

5 **MARCOS VILLASANA**
Mexico *54-8-2*

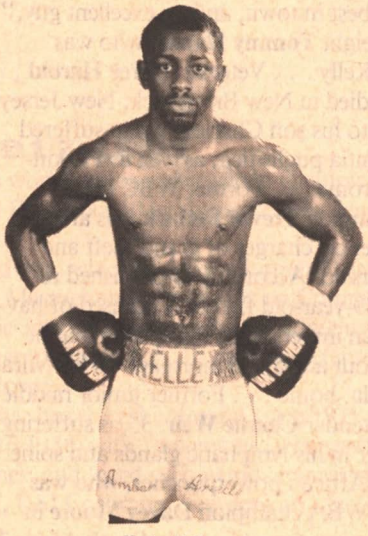
6 **MAURIZIO STECCA**
Italy *44-1*

7 **JOSE MARTINEZ**
Hanford, CA *17-4-1*

8 **TOM JOHNSON**
Detroit, MI *26-2-1*

9 **KEVIN KELLEY**
Flushing, NY *24-0*

10 **RICARDO CEPEDA**
Bronx, NY *24-1-1*



Kevin Kelley

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 122 pounds

1 **JESSE BENAVIDES**
Corpus Christi, TX *35-1*

2 **WELCOME NCITA**
South Africa *30-0 (IBF Champ)*

3 **RAUL PEREZ**
Mexico *49-2-2 (WBA Champ)*

4 **DANIEL ZARAGOZA**
Mexico *44-5-1 (WBC Champ)*

5 **LUIS MENDOZA**
Colombia *32-3-2*

6 **JESUS SALUD**
San Diego, CA *40-4*

7 **PEDRO DECIMA**
Argentina *26-3*

8 **TRACY PATTERSON**
New Paltz, NY *43-2*

9 **JEMAL HINTON**
District Heights, MD *20-0*

10 **LUISITO ESPINOSA**
Philippines *25-6*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 195 pounds

1 **JEFF LAMPKIN**
Youngstown, OH *35-13-1*

2 **BOBBY CZYZ**
Montgomery, NJ *39-5 (WBA Champ)*

3 **JAMES WARRING**
Miami, FL *13-1 (IBF Champ)*

4 **ANACLET WAMBA**
France *33-2 (WBC Champ)*

5 **TAOUFIK BELBOULI**
France *29-1-1*

6 **ALFRED COLE**
Newark, NJ *20-1*

7 **ORLIN NORRIS**
Campo, CA *31-3*

8 **ROBERT DANIELS**
Miami, FL *17-2-1*

9 **DENNIS ANDRIES**
Detroit, MI *41-9-2*

10 **DWIGHT QAWI**
Lindenwold, NJ *37-8-1*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1 **THOMAS HEARNS**
Detroit, MI *50-3-1 (WBA Champ)*

2 **PRINCE CHARLES WILLIAMS**
Mansfield, OH *32-4-2 (IBF Champ)*

3 **VIRGIL HILL**
Australia *30-1*

4 **FRANK TATE**
Houston, TX *30-2*

5 **JEFF HARDING**
Australia *21-1 (WBC Champ)*

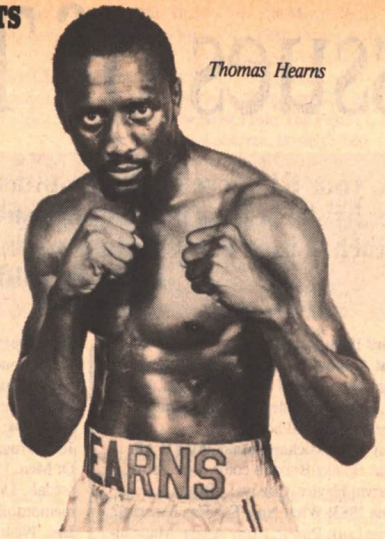
6 **GRACIANO ROCCHIGIANI**
Germany *32-0*

7 **LEEONZER BARBER**
Detroit, MI *15-1*

8 **ANTHONY HEMBRICK**
Beckley, WV *23-2-1*

9 **CHRISTOPHE TIOZZO**
France *30-1*

10 **GUY WATERS**
Australia *14-2-1*



Thomas Hearns

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1 **VICTOR CORDOBA**
N. Ireland *16-2 (WBA Champ)*

2 **MICHAEL NUNN**
Davenport, IA *37-1*

3 **CHRIS EUBANK**
England *29-0*

4 **IRAN BARKLEY**
Bronx, NY *28-7 (IBF Champ)*

5 **MAURO GALVANO**
Italy *17-1-2 (WBC Champ)*

6 **NIGEL BENN**
England *30-2*

7 **DARRIN VAN HORN**
Lexington, KY *47-3*

8 **LINDELL HOLMES**
Detroit, MI *44-6-1*

9 **TONY THORNTON**
Glassboro, NJ *28-4-1*

10 **MERQUI SOSA**
New York, NY *19-2*

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 147 pounds

1 **MELDRICK TAYLOR**
Cheltenham, PA *28-1-1 (WBA Champ)*

2 **BUDDY McGIRT**
Hauppauge, NY *55-2-1 (WBC Champ)*

3 **SIMON BROWN**
Germantown, MD *34-2*

4 **MAURICE BLOCKER**
Germantown, MD *33-2 (IBF Champ)*

5 **GENARO LEON**
Mexico *39-2-2*

6 **GLENWOOD BROWN**
Plainfield, NJ *34-2*

7 **CRISANTO ESPANA**
N. Ireland *25-0*

8 **SANTOS CARDONA**
Puerto Rico *22-3*

9 **DAVID GONZALEZ**
San Jose, CA *27-1-1*

10 **YORI BOY CAMPAS**
Mexico *37-0*

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 140 pounds

1 **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
Mexico *78-0 (WBC Champ)*

2 **RAFAEL PINEDA**
Colombia *27-1 (IBF Champ)*

3 **EDWIN ROSARIO**
Puerto Rico *37-4 (WBA Champ)*

4 **TERRENCE ALLI**
Linden, NJ *47-7-2*

5 **CHARLES MURRAY**
Newark, NJ *23-1*

6 **HECTOR CAMACHO**
Big Cypress, FL *39-1*

7 **GREG HAUGEN**
Henderson, NV *29-4-1*

8 **ROGER MAYWEATHER**
Las Vegas, NV *40-7*

9 **LORETO GARZA**
Sacramento, CA *29-2-1*

10 **PAT BARRETT**
England *31-1-1*

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 135 pounds

1 **PERNELL WHITAKER**
Norfolk, VA *27-1 (World Champ)*

2 **FREDDIE PENDLETON**
Miami, FL *32-17-3*

3 **JORGE PAEZ**
Mexico *39-4-4*

4 **TRACY SPANN**
Plainfield, NJ *26-1*

5 **DARRYLL TYSON**
Washington, D.C. *36-4*

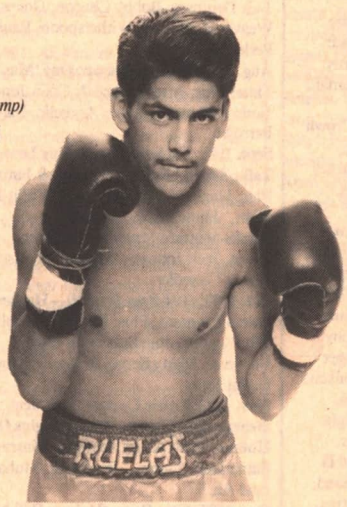
6 **SHARMBA MITCHELL**
Takoma Park, MD *25-0*

7 **CHIL SUNG CHUN**
South Korea *17-1*

8 **POLI DIAZ**
Spain *31-1*

9 **JOEY GAMACHE**
Lewiston, ME *26-0*

10 **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ**
Mexico *24-0*



Gabe Ruelas

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 130 pounds

1 **JEFF FENECH**
Australia *26-0-1*

2 **AZUMAH NELSON**
Ghana *33-2-1 (WBC Champ)*

3 **BRIAN MITCHELL**
South Africa *43-1-3 (IBF Champ)*

4 **TONY LOPEZ**
Sacramento, CA *38-3-1*

5 **GENARO HERNANDEZ**
Los Angeles, CA *24-0 (WBA Champ)*

6 **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
Puerto Rico *24-3*

7 **EUGENE SPEED**
Palmer Park, MD *21-0*

8 **REGILIO TUUR**
Whitestone, NY *26-1-1*

9 **GABE RUELAS**
Arleta, CA *26-1*

10 **JACKIE GUNGULUZA**
South Africa *24-2*

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 118 pounds

1 **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
Laredo, TX *30-1-1 (IBF Champ)*

2 **ISRAEL CONTRERAS**
Venezuela *35-2-1 (WBA Champ)*

3 **JOICHIRO TATSUYOSHI**
Japan *7-0-1 (WBC Champ)*

4 **JUNIOR JONES**
Brooklyn, NY *21-0*

5 **VICTOR RABANALES**
Mexico *28-10-2*

6 **DUKE McKENZIE**
England *30-2*

7 **THIERRY JACOB**
France *31-3*

8 **YONG HOON LEE**
South Korea *20-0*

9 **ELIECER JULIO**
Colombia *19-0*

10 **GERARDO MARTINEZ**
San Jose, CA *27-1*

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 115 pounds

1 **ROBERT QUIROGA**
San Antonio, TX *18-0 (IBF Champ)*

2 **SUNG KIL MOON**
South Korea *16-1 (WBC Champ)*

3 **JOSE RUIZ**
Puerto Rico *22-2*

4 **THALERNSAK SITHBAOBAY**
Thailand *36-2*

5 **GREG RICHARDSON**
Youngstown, OH *29-4*

6 **ARMANDO CASTRO**
Mexico *44-8-1*

7 **VINCENZO BELCASTRO**
Italy *21-5-3*

8 **DAVID GRIMAN**
Venezuela *11-1*

9 **CARLOS MERCADO**
Colombia *21-0-1*

10 **KATSUYA ONIZUKA**
Japan *18-0*

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 112 pounds

1 **MUANGCHAI KITTIKASEM**
Thailand *16-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 **DAVE McAULEY**
Ireland *18-2-2 (IBF Champ)*

3 **YONG KANG KIM**
South Korea *24-3 (WBA Champ)*

4 **RODOLFO BLANCO**
Colombia *26-6-1*

5 **SOT CHITALADA**
Thailand *26-3-1*

6 **JUNG KOO CHANG**
South Korea *38-4*

7 **YURI ARBACHAKOV**
Soviet Union *10-0*

8 **SCOTTY OLSON**
Las Vegas, NV *20-0*

9 **YUN UN CHIN**
South Korea *25-0*

10 **YSAIAS ZAMUDIO**
Blythe, CA *26-3-1*

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 108 pounds

1 **HIROKI IOKA**
Japan *19-2-1 (WBA Champ)*

2 **MYUNG WOO YUH**
South Korea *36-1*

3 **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
Phoenix, AZ *21-0 (IBF Champ)*

4 **HUMBERTO GONZALEZ**
Mexico *31-1 (WBC Champ)*

5 **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
Mexico *31-3-3*

6 **DOMINGO SOSA**
Dominican Republic *16-0*

7 **LEON SALAZAR**
Panama *15-3-1*

8 **JOSE DeJESUS**
Puerto Rico *26-2-1*

9 **JERRY PENALOSA**
Philippines *15-0-1*

10 **ROBINSON CUESTAS**
Panama *21-0*

POUND FOR POUND
Boxing's 10 Best Fighters, Pound For Pound

1 **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
Junior Welterweight

2 **PERNELL WHITAKER**
Lightweight

3 **MELDRICK TAYLOR**
Welterweight

4 **EVANDER HOLYFIELD**
Heavyweight

5 **MIKE TYSON**
Heavyweight

6 **JEFF FENECH**
Junior Lightweight

7 **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
Bantamweight

8 **BUDDY McGIRT**
Welterweight

9 **TERRY NORRIS**
Junior Middleweight

10 **JAMES TONEY**
Middleweight

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Jan. 1982: Exclusive Interview: Thomas Hearns—"I Shall Return." Plus: Tony Ayala, Gene Tunney, Tex Cobb, Roger Stafford, Holmes-Snipes, Pryor-Johnson.

Feb. 1982: Holmes-Cooney Program. Plus: Dwight Braxton pinup, Irish fighters, Muhammad Ali, Pedroza-Ballas.

June 1982: Aaron Pryor: How Good Is He? Plus: Jack Dempsey, Braxton-Saad, Sylvester Stallone, Hall of Fame (Jeffra, Blackburn, Arcel, Jabobs), Moore-Weir, Jiro Watanabe.

July 1982: Leonard: Is It All Over For Sugar Ray? Plus: Ray Mancini, Greg Page, first-round kayos, Jack Johnson, Ray Robinson, Mancini-Frias.

Aug. 1982: Cooney: Is He The Real McCoy? Plus: Sugar Ray Leonard pinup, Holmes-Cooney coverage, Howard Davis, British heavyweights, Larry Holmes, Limon-Navarette.

Sept. 1982: Leon Spinks: Boxing's Prodigal Son Returns To The Cruiserweights. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Sanchez-Nelson, Max Baer, Milton McCrory.

Nov. 1982: Special Pryor-Arguello Program. Plus: Earnie Shavers, Robeto Duran, Henry Armstrong, Gerry Cooney, LaPorte-Miranda.

Jan. 1983: Dwight Braxton: "How I Will Beat Spinks." Plus: Pryor-Arguello—Fight of the Year, Frank Fletcher, Rocky Marciano, Curry-Starling I, Hagler-Obel II.

Feb. 1983: Michael Dokes: Tainted Champion? Plus: Howard Cosell, Chacon-Limon, Mickey Walker, Ray Mancini.

March 1983: (104-Page Year-End Special)—Larry Holmes: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Donald Curry, Milton McCrory, history of featherweights.

April 1983: Randall "Tex" Cobb: Not Just Another Pretty Face. Plus: Hector Camacho, Hall of Fame (Monzon, Foster, Burley), Stanley Ketchel, Duran-Cuevas, Wilford Scypion.

May 1983: Michael Spinks Wins It All. Plus: Spinks-Braxton color, Bob Arum, Marvin Hagler, Collins-LaPaglia.

June 1983: What Now For Ray Mancini? Plus: Lupe Pintor, Tony Ayala, Mancini-Arguello color, Holmes-Teofilo Stevenson?, Jersey Joe Walcott, Jung-Koo Chang, Frazier-Broad.

July 1983: Jeff Chandler: The Best Fighter Nobody Knows. Plus: Sugar Ray Seales, Jack Dempsey, Bobby Chacon, Dokes-Weaver II, Holmes-Witherspoon, Paul Berlenbach.

Aug. 1983: Roberto Duran: One 'Mas' Time! Plus: After Holmes?, Colin Jones, Jimmy Montoya, Alexis Arguello, Billy Petrolle.

Sept. 1983: Exclusive: Sugar Ray Leonard Talks About His Past, Present, & Future. Plus: Hagler & Duran: 'How I'll Win The Fight,' Jaime Garza, Panama Lewis, Spinks-Mustafa-Muhammad, Bobo Olson, Jack Johnson, Mustafa Hamsho, Muniz-Chandler.

Oct. 1983: (104-Page Special)—Hagler-Duran Program. Plus: Best fighter poll, Who's who?, Jose Sulaiman, Billy McNeece, Marty Servo, Milton McCory, Collin Jones.

Nov. 1983: Gerrie Coetzee: The New Heavyweight Champ Sets His Sights On Holmes. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Murray Sutherland, James J. Braddock, Muhammad Ali.

Dec. 1983: Greg Page: 'Holmes Will Never Fight Me—He's A Chicken-Livered Coward!' Plus: Hagler-Duran, Tim Witherspoon, Jake LaMotta, Cedeno-Magri, "Winners" by Leroy Neiman.

Feb. 1984: Don King Talks And Talks And Talks. Plus: Leonard's return, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, 1983 quotes, Marvin Hagler, Johnny Bratton, Gerald Hayes, Hagler-Duran color.

March 1984: Fighter Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler. Plus: *The Ring's* annual awards, 1983 fight calender, Carl Williams, Jung-Koo Chang, Chandler-Ruiz (color).

April 1984: Sugar Ray Leonard: "I'm Gonna Be Better Than Ever!" Plus: *Ring's* ratings of 8,000 fighters, Henry Armstrong, Don Lee, Koji Kobayashi, Mancini-Chacon (color).

June 1984: Bumphus, Lockridge, Duva: 'That Championship Year.' Plus: Ferdie Pacheco, Harry Arroyo, Holmes-Coetzee preview, Pipino Cuevas, Aaron Pryor, Battling Nelson-Joe Gans, Witherspoon-Page.

July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan. Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.

Aug. 1984: *Ring* Olympic Special. Plus: Mark Breland, Sugar Ray Leonard, Frank Bruno, Bramble-Mancini (color), Hatcher-Bumphus (color).

Sept. 1984: The Scramble For Bramble: Livingstone's Wrapped Up In Being A Champion. Plus: Hearns-Duran, Rosario-Davis, Aaron Pryor, Eusebio Pedroza.

Oct. 1984: The Beast From The East: John Mugabi Strikes Terror In The Hearts Of Men. Plus: Bill Costello, nine gold medals, Don King, Davey Moore, memorabilia.

Dec. 1984: Hagler Hammers Hamsho. Plus: Barry McGuigan, James Broad, boxing's best, Julian Jackson, Thomas-Witherspoon.

Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

March 1985: Fighter Of The Year: Thomas 'Hit Man' Hearns. Plus: Year-end awards, Darrell-Estrada, Nelson-Gomez, Arroyo-Alli.

April 1985: Special Hagler-Hearns Program. Plus: British fighters, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, British fighters, Sonny Liston.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

July 1985: Marvelous Marvin! Are There Any More Mountains To Climb? Plus: Hagler-Hearns, 10 greatest first rounds, Tyson (2-0) rates the heavys, Tubbs-Page.

Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

Sept. 1985: Barry McGuigan: Can He Be Boxing's Savior? Plus: Carl Williams, Thomas-Weaver, Chavez-Mayweather I.

Oct. 1985: The "Macho Man" Rides Again. Plus: Dwight Muhammad Qawi, Camacho-Ramirez, Berbick-Green, Jeff Fenech, John E. Garcia, McCallum-Braxton.

Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast? Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

Dec. 1985: Michael Spinks: Against All Odds. Plus: Curry-McCrory preview, McGuigan-Taylor, Alexis Arguello, Michael Olajide, Chavez-Pratchett.

Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

Feb. 1986: Mike Tyson: The Legacy Of Cus D'Amato. Plus: Rocky IV, Curry-McCrory, Teddy Mann, Kenny Lane.

March 1986: Co-Fighters Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler & Donald Curry. Plus: Special year-end awards, 1985 boxing diary, annual ratings, Evander Holyfield, Fenech-Coffee.

April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title. Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

May 1986: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Hearns-Shuler, Mike Tyson, Bramble-Crawley, Sandoval-Canizales, Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Arguello-Costello, Weaver-Williams.

June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.

July 1986: Spinks-Holmes II: Who Really Won? Plus: Frank Bruno, Richie Sandoval, Kevin Watts, Tyson-Tillis, Boza-Edwards-Alli, Johnson-Burns.

Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win? Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.

Oct. 1986: Marvelous Marvin: Can Anyone Fill His Shoes? Plus: Tim Witherspoon, Holyfield-Qawi, Panama's champions, Frankie Duarte, Tyson-Frazier.

Nov. 1986: Mike Tyson: History In The Making. Plus: Tyson-Berbick preview, Spinks, Paul Gonzales, Bobby Czyz, Tyson-Ratliff, McCallum-Jackson.

Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook Up The Boxing World. Plus: Rosario-Bramble, Honeyghan-Curry, Butch Lewis, Buster Drayton, Johnson-Emebe, Raging Bull II.

April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony? Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Evander Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lee, Curry-Montgomery.

July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die. Plus: The new *Ring* ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

Aug. 1987: Sugar Ray: Still In Style. Plus: Leonard-Hagler, all-time heavyweight ratings, Czyz-MacDonald, Camacho-Davis.

Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: The Look Of The Future? Plus: Tyson-Thomas, Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle, Tsuyoshi Hamada, Juan Roldan, Harold Knight.

Oct. 1987: Special Hall Of Fame Issue: Ali Elected Unanimously! Plus: Hall of Fame directory, Spinks-Cooney, Pazienza-Haugen II, Aaron Pryor.

Nov. 1987: Tyson Wins Heavyweight Triple-Crown. Plus: Triple-crown champs, Matthew Hilton, Carlos Monzon interview, McCallum-Curry.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn—Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

March 1988: Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns: "Now I Own History." Plus: Chavez-Rosario, Roger Mayweather, Rocky Lockridge, bleeders, Bruno-Bugner, Fenech-Zarate, Tony Burton.

April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.

June 1988: Sugar Ray Robinson Still The Sweetest! Plus: All-time middleweight ratings, Larry Holmes, Louie Lomeli, McGirt-Warren II, Haugen-Pazienza II.

July 1988: Special Tyson-Spinks Preview Issue. Plus: Donald Trump interview, Honeyghan-Vaca II, Foreman-Qawi, Barkley-Olajide.

Aug. 1988: Julio Cesar Chavez: The Kid From Culiacan. Plus: Holyfield, bad decisions, Lockridge-Knight, Starling-Breland II, Brown-Trice, Haugen-Santana.

Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde, Andries-Czyz.

Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory? Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Dec. 1988: Mike Tyson Special. Plus: Leonard-Lalonde preview, Barry McGuigan, alphabet wars, Jeff Fenech, Mauro Mina, Meldrick Taylor.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

Feb. 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez. Plus: Chavez-Ramirez, all-time lightweight ratings, Louie Espinoza, Simon Brown, Roger Mayweather.

March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

Jan. 1990: Boxing's Bible Reborn At Age 68. Plus: George Foreman (color), Mike Tyson, Carlos Monzon, Duran-Leonard III, LaMotta-Dauthuille.

Feb. 1990: Riddick Bowe/Ray Mercer Target . . . Tyson: Plus: The Olympians as pros (color), Bobby Czyz, Gerry Cooney, Wepner-Liston, Bobo Olson.

March 1990: The '80s—Great Fights, Great Fighters (color). Plus: Jeff Harding, Evander Holyfield, Pete Rademacher, Sharkey-McCoy.

April 1990: Pernell Whitaker—*The Ring* Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Chavez-Taylor preview, Leonard-Duran III, Tiger Flowers, Muhammad Ali.

May 1990: Big George Talks Tough! Plus: Archie Moore, Moore-Marciano (color), Grudge Wars, Kid Berg, Ike Williams-Alexis Arguello.

June 1990: Buster! How James Douglas Shocked The World. Plus: Michael Moorer, Camacho-Paez, Tommy Farr, Excuses, Dick Tiger, Ruben Olivares-Jeff Chandler.

July 1990: "I'm Hungrier Than Ever Before!" By Evander Holyfield. Plus: Muhammad Ali painting, Ali-Liston II, New York welters, Michael Carbajal, Jorge Paez, Kid Gavilan.

Aug. 1990: His Greatness Confirmed . . . Is Julio Cesar Chavez The Greatest Mexican Fighter Ever? Plus: Matthew Saad Muhammad, Sullivan & Tyson, Michael Nunn, Mark Breland, Harold Johnson, Louis-Godoy (color).

Sept. 1990: Marvin Hagler—Can He Resist The Irresistible Temptation? Plus: Thomas Hearns, Sanchez-Saddler, Paul Banke, puncher vs. chin, Beau Jack, Robinson-LaMotta (color).

Oct. 1990: Thanks For The Memories: Rocky Graziano, 1922-1990. Plus: Aaron Pryor, Mike Tyson, Napoles-Leonard, A Gathering Of Champions (color).

Nov. 1990: Tyson vs. Foreman: Can Iron Mike Stop The Blast From The Past? Plus: Marciano-LaStarza, boxing's best chins, Azumah Nelson, Sullivan-Kilrain (color).

Dec. 1990: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Joe Grim, Douglas-Holyfield preview, Marciano-Frazier, Douglas-Tyson (color).

Jan. 1991: Boxing's Baddest Bad Boy: Nigel Benn Plays By His Own Rules. Plus: Roberto Duran, Kid Akeem, Jose Napoles, Jimmy Carruthers, LaMotta-Zale, Dempsey-Willard (color).

Feb. 1991: Boxing On TV: Now You'll Pay. Plus: Ismael Laguna, Tommy Morrison, Humberto Gonzalez, Harold Green, Joe Louis, heavyweight *Ring* covers (color).

March 1991: Hunger! It Made Evander A Champ. Plus: Charles Murray, Billy Bird, Khaosai Galaxy, Armstrong-Duran, computer flyweight tournament, Sonny Liston (color).

April 1991: Julio Cesar Chavez—*The Ring* Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Mike Tyson, Wilfred Benitez, Pedro Decima, computer bantamweight tournament.

May 1991: Ali-Frazier I: 20 Years Later, Still The Fight Of The Century. Plus: Hometown heroes, George Costner, Galindez-Saad Muhammad, Tony Canzoneri, computer featherweight tournament, Ali-Frazier pinup.

June 1991: Pain, Frustration, Confidence, And Hope: Meldrick Taylor's Life After Chavez. Plus: Holyfield-Foreman preview, Norris-Leonard, Freddie Steele, computer lightweight tournament, Tiger-Hearns, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).

July 1991: Tyson's Title Hopes: He Ain't What He Used To Be . . . But It's Not Gonna Matter. Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Meehan, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).

August 1991: Fat, Funny, And Forty-Two, But Certainly No Fraud: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight . . . And The World A Thrill. Plus: Harry Greb, Louis-Conn I, making weight, computer welterweight tournament, Dempsey-Marciano, Holyfield-Foreman (color).

October 1991: A Hit Again—How Far Can Thomas Hearns Go? Plus: Battling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAuley, Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, ethnic matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Cerdan-Hagler, Rocky Marciano (color).

November 1991: Mike Tyson's Fight For Greatness: Will November 8 Be His Moment? Plus: Edwin Rosario, Jeff Fenech-Azumah Nelson, Overrated and Underrated, Giardello-Graham, Lennox Lewis, Marcel Cerdan, Muhammad Ali (color).

December 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Who Will Win And Why. Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Britton, Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, Rating the 44 World Champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezzard Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).

January 1992: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Jerry Quarry, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mysterious Billy Smith, Joey Gamache, moving up in weight, Billy Conn-Michael Spinks, Joe Louis (color).

March 1992: Turning Heads—Ray Mercer Makes His Statement To The Heavyweights. Plus: Lou Nova, 1980 Olympic team, boxing cards, Rodrigo Valdes, *Ring's* New Year's wish, Joe Louis-Muhammad Ali, Jack Dempsey (color).

April 1992: Is Evander Holyfield Tough Enough To Stay On Top? Plus: Buddy McGirt, George Foreman, Toney-McCallum, referees, Marvin Hart, Al Hostak, Eusebio Pedroza-Salvador Sanchez, Ketchel-Johnson (color).

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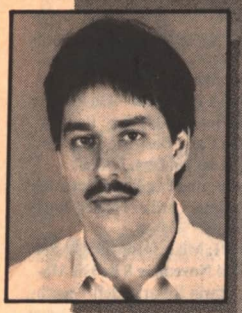


Ryan Out Loud

By Jeff Ryan

THE SMELL OF TACOS IN THE AIR

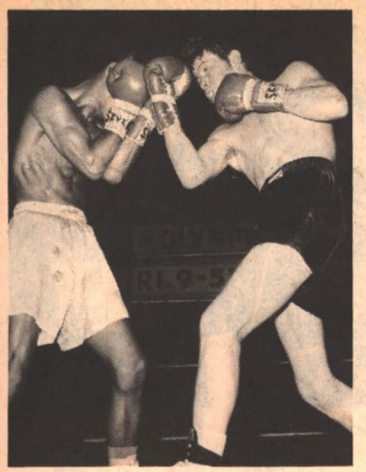
If you're old enough to remember way back to, oh, 20 B.C. (Before Cruise), you, like me, probably have an affinity for those grand old movie theaters. Drab outsides, yes, but great places to watch films. Beautiful, ornate ceilings. Balconies. Curtains that opened to reveal enormous screens. Today, most of them have been abandoned or turned into super-mega-multiplexes. Fourteen movies under one roof. Eighteen seats per theater. Every flick in Claustrophobitron and Dolby Stereo. Bad nachos, too.

If you're a cinemaniac who also happens to be hooked on boxing, you probably feel doubly cursed. The great boxing theaters, they, too, vanished long ago. They either met the wrecking ball or stopped making the sweet science a regular attraction on their marquees. Boxing hasn't played Boston Garden or Chicago Stadium in ages. The old Madison Square Garden and Detroit's Olympia are parking lots. Philadelphia's Blue Horizon is still a great fight club, but one forever without a great fight.

Well, rejoice ye purists, one and all! The Olympic Auditorium, the one-time boxing mecca at 18th and Grand in downtown Los Angeles, is rising from the dead. The Olympic, built in 1925, is believed to be the only surviving U.S. arena constructed primarily for boxing. That it is still standing, let alone reopening, has to come as a great surprise to many. Since it was boarded up in 1987, varying rumors have had it gutted, damaged by fire, or actually reduced to rubble. None was true.

"Everyone just assumed I was going to turn that property into a parking lot," Jack Needleman, the building's owner, told the *Los Angeles Times*. "I never wanted to do that. I always wanted to bring the old lady back and turn her into a new lady. If anyone had bothered to ask me, I would have told them that."

This photo is 20 years old. Will the reopening of Los Angeles' Olympic Auditorium bring back the days when world-class fighters shared the marquee with professional wrestlers and roller derby?



Future featherweight champion Danny Lopez stops Yoshinabu Goto at the Olympic in July 1972. Promoter Dan Goossen plans to promote in the famed arena this spring.

Boxeo at the Olympic, usually on a Thursday, was something special. From the taco wagons in the parking lot, to the mostly Mexican fans throwing coins into the ring after an exceptional battle, to the big picture of a boxer built into the front of the place, the atmosphere was like none other in the sport.

The Olympic is the antithesis of those sterile casino ballrooms or places like the recently opened Paramount in New York City. The Paramount was built with the intention of stealing entertainers away from rival Radio City Music Hall. So we get boxing in a place that looks better suited for Rockettes than Rockys.

The Olympic is a living reminder of the days of big, unassuming concrete arenas that could have been mistaken for factories or warehouses if they didn't have a marquee hanging out front. Places with balconies that seemed to be suspended right over the ring. At the Olympic, fighters are just a stone's throw away. And you better believe that a few drunken fans tested that assertion.

The building's history of unforgettable fighters (Henry Armstrong, Joe Frazier, Emile Griffith, Danny Lopez, Carlos Palomino, Pipino Cuevas, Ruben Olivares, Lupe Pintor, and more) is rivaled only by its history of unforgettable riots. Even when nobody was rioting, the place was a riot.

"That was a wild place," heavyweight prospect Alex Garcia once told me. "I walked out of the tunnel to go to the ring once and got covered with beer instantly. One time coming down the aisle, I counted seven fights going on in the crowd. You didn't even have to look in the ring to see good action."

The Olympic, which also hosted roller derby and pro wrestling and served as the venue for boxing, wrestling, and weight lifting at the 1932 Olympic Games, clings to a particular spot in the heart of Dan Goossen. The California promoter went to the arena's fights for the first time at the age of 13, with his father and brothers. Goossen, now 42, will promote the new cards there, beginning in May or June.

He is quick to point out that a lot has changed in the neighborhood since the doors shut five years ago. The area has gone hi-tech, and the construction of new office buildings has made it safer. There is a new train stop a block away, and a five-deck parking garage has risen nearby.

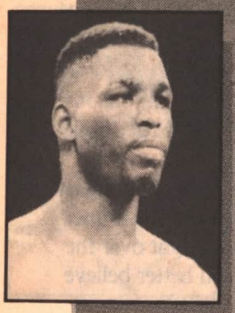
Inside, there will be 8,900 new seats, a new roof, and new plumbing. That last change is particularly important. Hopefully, fans will relieve themselves in the men's room, and not in paper cups. More than a few fight people have told me that flying urine has long been some Olympic fans' way of giving certain fighters the thumbs down.

Old-timers need not fret over the changes, for much of the feeling of the old days will still be there. Olympic regulars still won't know what an escalator is, never mind a skyboxeo. And "as long as they've got good salsa," Goossen vows the taco wagons will return.

"There'll be much more security," he adds. "There are three keys for this to be a success and to bring back the mystique. We have to make it secure, make the place comfortable, and put on good fights. We won't be after the million-dollar fights that Las Vegas gets, but we won't have clubfights, either. And we want to develop a lot of talent at the Olympic, too."

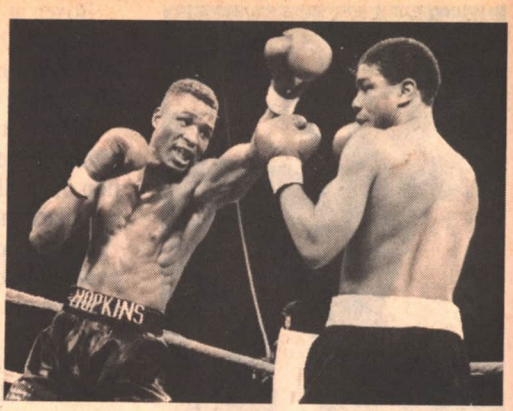
Sports fans who cling desperately to some vestiges of the past (see the Save Tiger Stadium Fan Club) don't usually get second chances like this. If Tiger Stadium or, heaven forbid, Fenway Park or Wrigley Field, close their gates one day, they won't swing open again five years later to dry anyone's tears. That ugly octoplex theater isn't going to turn back the clock and get tasteful and pretty. Bad nachos aren't going to be replaced by freshly popped popcorn again.

So let the punches flow, the coins fly, and the smell of tacos fill the air. Only this time, let's hope that when the referee commands the fighters, "Gentlemen, protect yourselves at all times," he doesn't have to add, "Especially on your way back to the dressing room." ■



New Faces

By Robert Cassidy



Hopkins pops Willie Kemp

Bernard Hopkins

Middleweight

Bernard Hopkins was born in North Philly, where there are only two things that count: boxing and survival. The streets have produced the likes of Gypsy Joe Harris, Bennie Briscoe, Cyclone Hart, and Meldrick Taylor. In rugged North Philly, young men are advised to learn how to box for survival. But when Hopkins began boxing, he was merely following a family tradition.

"Boxing is in my genes," he said. "I've always wanted to fight. I've been in the gym for as long as I can remember."

He was no doubt watching his father, Bernard Hopkins Sr., and three of his uncles. One of them, Art McCloud, is one of the best Philly fighters to never have made it big. (In 1977, McCloud handed future middleweight contender Frank "The Animal" Fletcher his first career loss.)

As a child, Hopkins was uprooted from North Philly, and he subsequently began his successful amateur career crosstown in Germantown. Hopkins had won two Junior Olympics titles and a National AAU championship before turning 16. He competed in the amateurs with Taylor, Robert Hines, and James Shuler, and while all four excelled, Hopkins lacked the proper backing to earn national recognition. After failing to qualify for the 1984 Olympic Trials, he walked away from boxing. He spent a brief period of time in reform school, then earned his diploma from Germantown High School and took a job as a roofer.

"I was miserable," Hopkins said of his time away from boxing. "I always knew I wanted to fight. But I wanted nice things like sneakers and jackets, and you can't cash in trophies."

Several of Hopkins' co-workers in the Roofer's Union told him they'd finance his pro career. Hopkins couldn't resist the opportunity and turned pro in 1988 as a light heavyweight. The only problem was, despite being 6-feet tall, he was a natural middleweight.

"These guys made me eat like hell to be a light heavyweight," he recalled. "Then, during training, I'd get down to like 164. They didn't know a thing about boxing. They saw it as a way to make some quick money."

In his first pro fight, Hopkins lost a majority decision to Clinton Mitchell, who was 5-0 and a legitimate light heavyweight. Disgusted with the defeat, he again walked away from the sport he loved. Soon after, he lost his job as a roofer and was hired as a cook at the Penn Towers Hotel.

After nine months of ring inactivity, Hopkins was eating at a restaurant in the Chester Hill section of Philadelphia when he bumped into Gregory Turner of Ring Warriors Promotional Co. Hopkins explained how he had been mismanaged, and Turner directed him to Rob Murray and Fareed Ahmed, who manage fighters under the banner of Arising Boxing Stars. Hopkins was instantly adopted into a huge boxing family.

"I told Bernard that if he wanted to pursue his career, it would be totally up

(Continued on page 70)

PRO RECORD

	1988	
Oct. 11	Clinton Mitchell, Atlantic City	L 4
	1990	
Feb. 22	Greg Paige, Philadelphia	W 4
April 26	Keith Gray, Philadelphia	KO 1
May 18	Eddie Tyler, Atlantic City	KO 1
June 30	Khalif Shabazz, Atlantic City	KO 1
Aug. 5	Percy Harris, Atlantic City	W 6
Oct. 20	Darren Oliver, Atlantic City	KO 1
Nov. 17	Mike Sapp, Ft. Myers, FL	KO 1
	1991	
Feb. 26	Richard Quiles, Philadelphia	KO 1
March 18	Steve Langley, Las Vegas	KO 3
June 20	Pedro Marquez, Parsippany, NJ	KO 1
July 9	Danny Mitchell, Philadelphia	KO 1
Sept. 23	Ralph Moncrief, Philadelphia	KO 1
Nov. 26	Dave McCluskey, Philadelphia	KO 1
Dec. 13	Willie Kemp, Atlantic City	W 10

RECORD:	FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
	15	14	1	0	11

Photos By Al Bello

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PHOTO QUIZ

Test Your Boxing IQ

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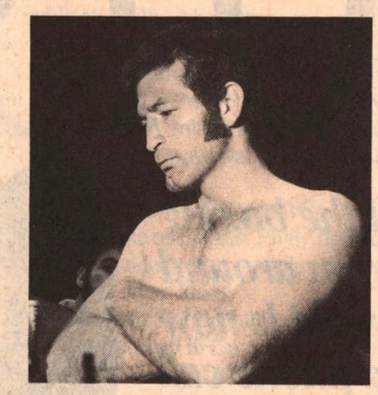
Can you identify the fighters in these photos? Award yourself 10 points for each question you answer correctly. If you score a total of 90-100 points, consider yourself a world champion. If you score 70-80 points, you rate as a top-10 contender. If you score 50-60 points, you're a clubfighter at best. Less than 50 points? Eat another piece of cheesecake and forget about that morning roadwork.

1

In the late-'60s and early-'70s, serious fighters almost always flaunted serious sideburns. This perennial welterweight contender had a little brother who became a serious world champion.



2

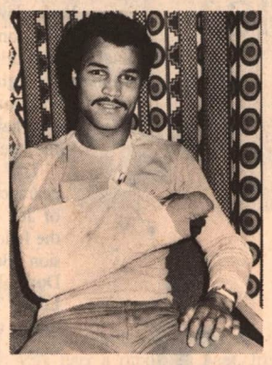
Among the more forgettable of Larry Holmes' title fight foes was this New Jersey heavyweight. He somehow lasted five rounds in 1983.

3

Sugar Ray Leonard wasn't the only fighter who beat up Kevin Howard. This 154-pounder's claim to fame was that in 1984, he became the IBF's first junior middleweight champion.

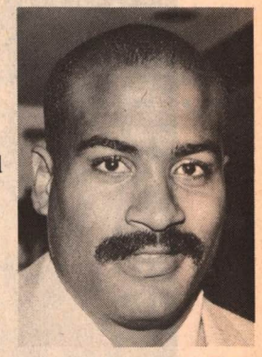
4

Bad hands troubled this '70s world champion for much of his prime. Hint: He was from the U.K.



5

You'll have to be a real shark to identify this former world champion, who was best known for getting kayoed by some pretty good heavyweights.

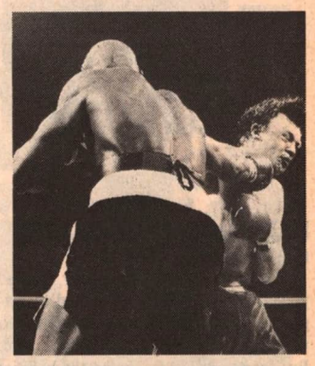


6

And you thought Philadelphia fighters wore long trunks. Even at age 50, Sugar Ray Robinson had enough left to handle this myopic white Hope.

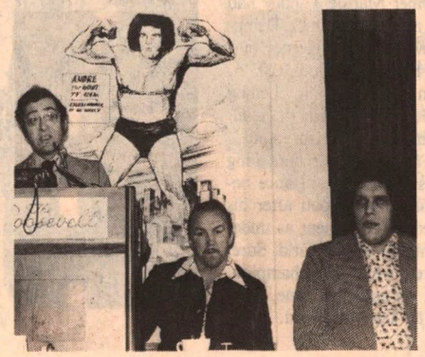
7

Marvelous Marvin Hagler was especially tough on British middleweights. This title fight opponent fell in six rounds in 1983.



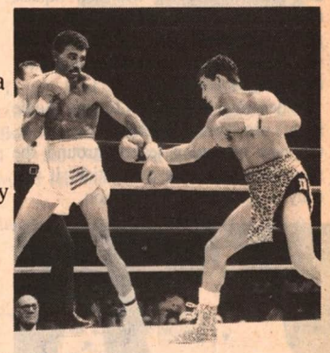
8

Is there anything that Bob Arum *wouldn't* promote? In June 1976, he pitted wrestling legend Andre the Giant against the unsuspecting heavyweight seated in the middle of this lovely photo.



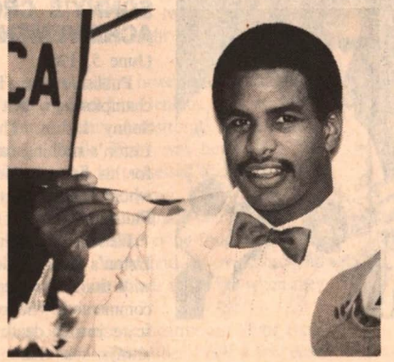
9

Hector "Macho" Camacho survived a scare in 1988, when he was floored for the first time in his career by this cagey Dominican. Hint: The same fighter lost a 15-rounder to Gary Hinton in a 1986 bout for the vacant IBF 140-pound crown.



10

It seems that in the '80s, this former champion, who fought from welterweight to heavyweight, won and lost the world title 20 times each.

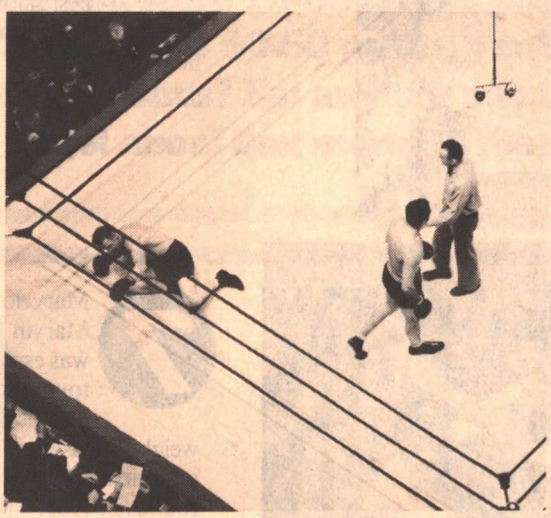


ANSWERS:

1) Ernie "Indian Red" Lopez;
2) Scott Frank; 3) Mark Medal;
4) John Conteh;
5) Ossie "Jaws" Ocasio;
6) Bob Hope; 7) Tony Sibson;
8) Chuck Wepner; 9) Reyes Cruz;
10) Carlos DeLeon

Time Capsules

By Stanley Weston



VIEW FROM ABOVE

(December 14, 1937)

Former heavyweight champion Max Schmeling turns his back on stricken opponent Harry Thomas after flooring him for the seventh and final time in the eighth round at Madison Square Garden. Referee Arthur Donovan starts to walk toward Thomas, having already decided to stop the one-sided bout.

This was Schmeling's first appearance since his startling knockout of Joe Louis 18 months before. In the following year, Max would decision Ben Foord and stop Steve Dudas before being rematched with Louis. The German had the opportunity to become the first heavyweight to regain the crown, but it was not to be. "The Brown Bomber" destroyed Herr Max in less than one round.

NEW CHAMP ON A HIGH

(March 5, 1954)

You could have practically named your own price had you wanted to wager on Brooklyn's Paddy DeMarco to win Jimmy Carter's lightweight title. But the tough Italian fooled the bookies and stunned the big Madison Square Garden crowd by maintaining a torrid pace throughout the 15 rounds and winning a unanimous decision and Carter's golden crown.

When ring announcer Johnny Addie (right) proclaimed DeMarco the winner, the new champion leaped around the ring like a kid on a pogo stick. It was truly a memorable coronation.

THE MARINE'S LAST FIGHT

(July 26, 1928)

Heavyweight champion Gene Tunney (left) and Tom Heeney pose before the start of their title fight at New York's Yankee Stadium. In his two previous bouts, former Marine Tunney had won and defended the title against Jack Dempsey. Although tough New Zealander Heeney outweighed the champion by 11½ pounds (203½-192), Tunney was an overwhelming betting choice. Master boxer Gene toyed with the challenger before kayoing him in the 11th round.

Although this was an ordinary, unexciting bout, it nevertheless has historic significance because it was Tunney's last fight. Soon after his victory, Gene announced his retirement as undefeated heavyweight champion of the world. Sure, others before him retired while still champion. The difference was that up until that time, Tunney was the only one to keep his word.

SONNY'S CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT

(June 5, 1963)

Publisher Nat Fleischer presents *The Ring* championship belt to heavyweight champion Sonny Liston. The ceremony took place at Liston's training camp, where he was preparing for his first title defense, against the man from whom he won the crown in 1962, Floyd Patterson.

Fleischer, who had enormous respect for Liston's natural talents, comparing him at times with titans like Dempsey, Marciano, and Louis, commented, "Sonny is a strange man. He can scare you to death with one scowl. But I have always felt there was a warm side to him, though I have to admit I never saw it."

TRAGIC CANCELLATION

(October 28, 1949)

A stunned Jake LaMotta, in his Bronx, New York, home, holds a photo of Marcel Cerdan and his family soon after Jake learned of Cerdan's tragic death in a plane crash in the Azores.

Jake was scheduled to defend the middleweight crown against the great Frenchman on December 2, 1949, in New York City, and Marcel was en route to the Big Apple for training. Fortunately, neither his wife nor two sons were aboard the ill-fated plane.

It was to have been the return bout between Cerdan and LaMotta. Four months before, in Detroit, Jake stopped the French idol in 10 rounds to win Marcel's title. But Cerdan blamed an arm injury for the defeat.

With Cerdan gone, promoters did the next best thing: They substituted another Frenchman, Robert Villemain, against LaMotta. In a non-title bout, Villemain won by decision.

A COUPLE OF CLOWNS

(Circa 1933)

Funnyman Ed Wynn looks like he's playing a piano instead of giving leading heavyweight contender Max Baer a rubdown. Baer, fresh off a sensational knockout win over Max Schmeling, and next in line for a shot at reigning champion Primo Carnera, was in Hollywood for movie tests. The MGM publicity department thought it would be a good idea to do a gag photo shoot featuring the ring clown and the top showbiz clown.

The idea bombed. Pictures were sent to the general news media, together with a studio fact sheet. But not a single shot was published.

HEAVY HITTERS

(March 20, 1984)

Thomas Hearns and Roberto Duran hold huge boxing gloves at a New York press conference announcing their junior middleweight title bout, scheduled for Las Vegas. Both boxers held versions of the 154-pound crown; Hearns recognized by the WBC, Duran by the WBA. Duran, however, announced he would relinquish his title claim to fight for Tommy's crown.

The Panamanian would be unsuccessful. Hearns subsequently scored a crushing second-round kayo.

FAREWELL, TIPPY

(December 1991)

In the 1930s and '40s, for a fighter to be given the tag "clubfighter" or "crowd-pleaser" was a valued compliment. Tippy Larkin wore both those tags with pride. He came out of the small New Jersey town of Garfield, and won recognition as junior welterweight champion. His real name was Tony Pilleteri.

Tippy was a Willie Pep or Tony Janiro-type boxer. He was matched with murderous punchers like Al Davis and Lew Jenkins, and slugged it out with, among others, Beau Jack, Henry Armstrong, Ike Williams, Billy Graham, and Charley Fusari. While Tippy was never in a bad fight, he had one weakness: his chin. Had he possessed a chin like Jake LaMotta's, he might've been a champion for years.

Larkin reached main-event status at Madison Square Garden, and the loyal gang from Garfield was always there wherever he fought, cheering him on in San Francisco, Akron, Erie, Richmond, Providence, and Boston. Those who followed him bowed their heads in tribute when they learned of Tippy's passing at age 74.

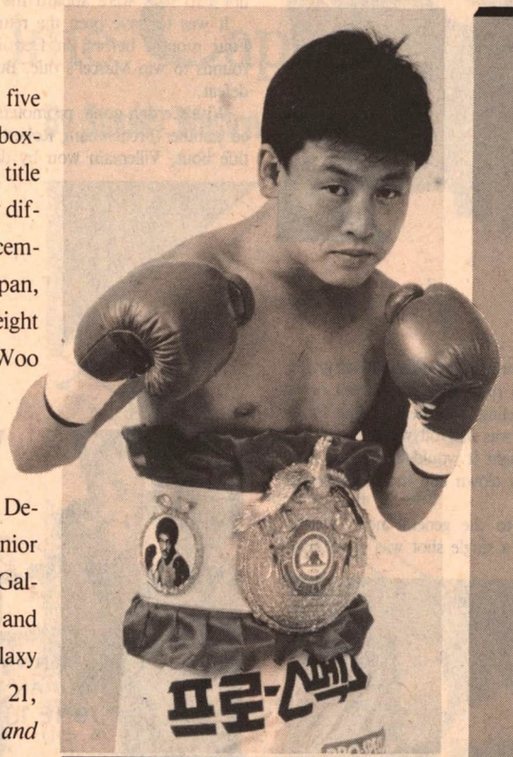
This cartoon, by the great boxing columnist and cartoonist Hype Igoe, was published in a New York newspaper in December 1939, a few days before Larkin fought Al Davis at the Garden.

MYUNG WOO YUH & KHAOSAI GALAXY

Boxing Longest Title Reigns End Within Five Days

By Steve Farhood

Over the course of five days in December, boxing's two longest title reigns ended in very different ways. On December 17 in Osaka, Japan, WBA junior flyweight champion Myung Woo Yuh was decisioned by Hiroki Ioka. Yuh had held the title since December 8, 1985. On December 22 in Bangkok, WBA junior bantamweight champion Khaosai Galaxy outpointed Armando Castro and then announced his retirement. Galaxy had held the title since November 21, 1984. *(For details of Ioka-Yuh and Galaxy-Castro, see "Ringside Reports" on page 50.)*



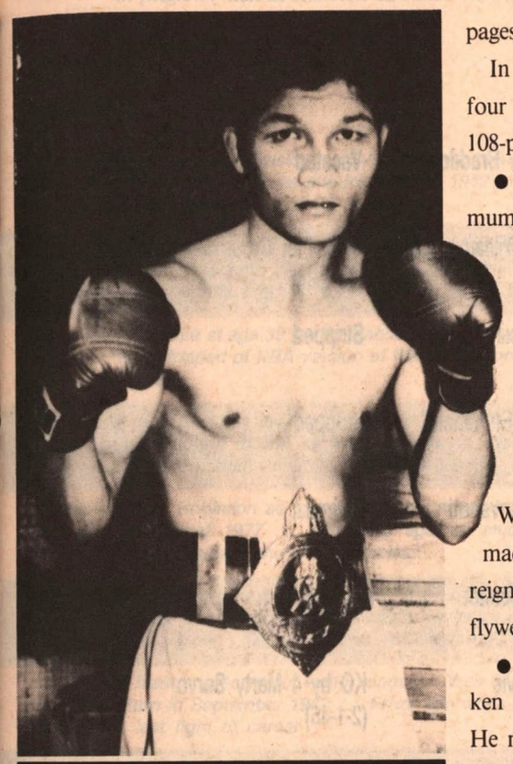
MYUNG WOO YUH

Yuh's loss and Galaxy's exit leave Charles Williams as boxing's longest-reigning king. The Prince has held the IBF light heavyweight title since October 29, 1987.

Yuh and Galaxy were titleholders in newborn divisions. The junior flyweight (108 pounds) class was born in 1975, and the junior bantamweight (115 pounds) class began in 1980. As a result, it is relatively easy to rate Yuh and Galaxy among the all-time champions of their respective divisions. And they both rate at the very top.

***

Yuh dramatically improved during his reign and made a division-record 17 successful defenses. He failed to score a single kayo in his first 13 pro bouts, but worked on his power and became a respectable puncher. (He scored stoppages in eight of his defenses.)



KHAOSAI GALAXY

In addition to Yuh, there have been four outstanding and accomplished 108-pound champions:

● Venezuela's slick Luis "Lumumba" Estaba was 34 and past his prime when he won the WBC title in 1975. Still, he managed to turn around what had been a mediocre career by making 11 successful defenses.

● A master boxer, Panamanian southpaw Hilario Zapata held the WBC title in the early-'80s, and made 10 successful defenses over two reigns. He went on to win the WBA flyweight crown in 1985.

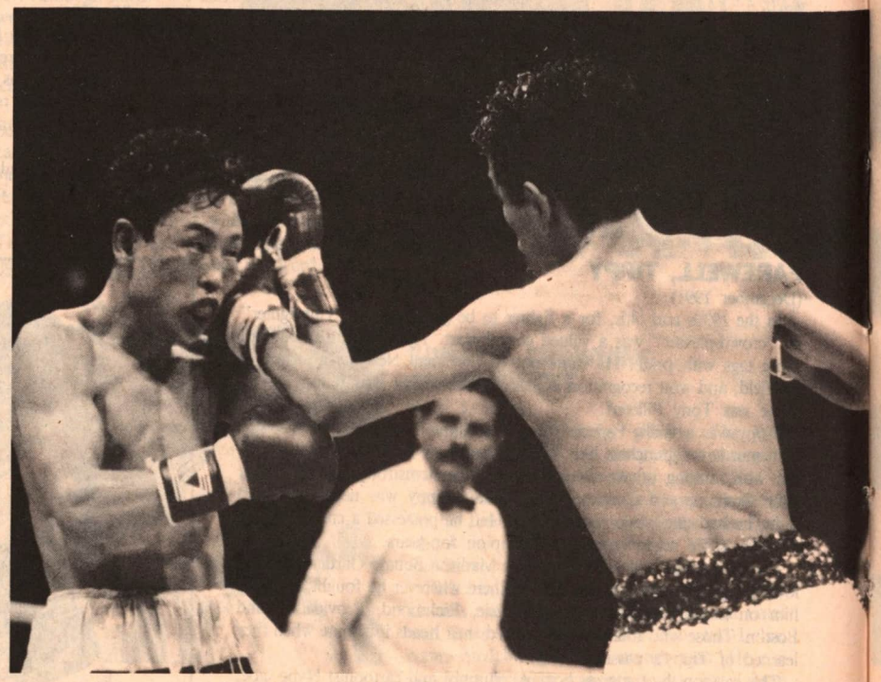
● Japanese southpaw Yoko Gushiken was the division's best puncher. He made 13 successful defenses of the WBA title, and, after being dethroned in 1981, never fought again.

● Yuh's countryman, rugged pressure fighter Jung Koo Chang, made 15 successful defenses and vacated the WBC throne in 1988.

In terms of pure skills, Estaba and Zapata were more advanced than Gushiken, Chang, and Woo. But Estaba had seven losses before winning the title, and Zapata suffered early-rounds title fight kayo losses to Amado Ursua and Chang. That leaves the big little three.

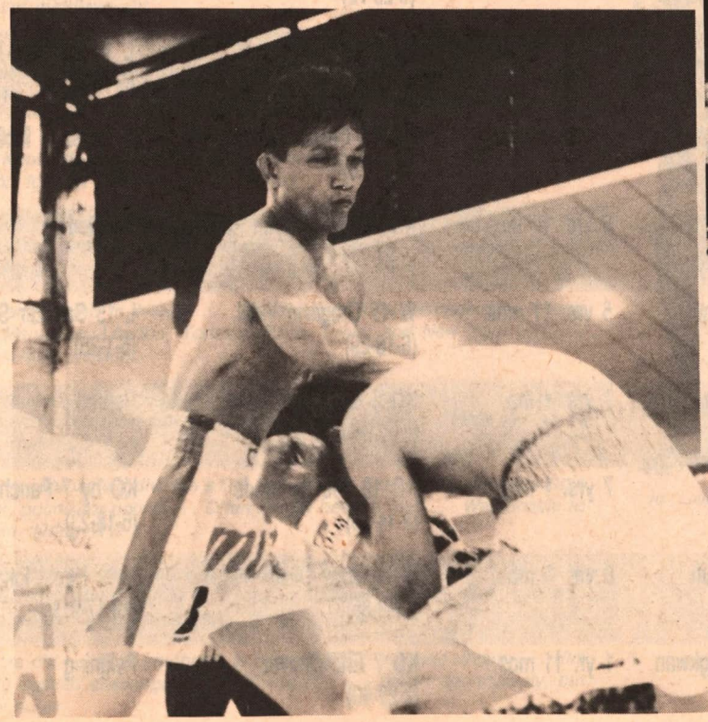
"Yuh was as good as any of them," said Bob Yalen, ABC-TV's boxing coordinator, and one of the few American fight figures who closely follows the lighter weight classes. "Gushiken could be outboxed. But Yuh and Chang were both whirlwinds. I'd call a

(Continued on page 56)



Hiroki Ioka jabs at longtime WBA junior flyweight champion Myung Woo Yuh during their December 1991 title fight in Osaka, Japan. Ioka won by split decision, ending the Korean's record six-year reign.

Khaosai Galaxy was far too strong for the 115-pounders he faced in a magnificent career. In June 1990, he overpowered Shunichi Nakajima en route to an eighth-round kayo (right). After stopping Cobra Ari Blanca in March 1990, Galaxy showed off his title belts, which may have weighed more than he did (far right).



DIVISION BY DIVISION: THE LONGEST

In December, boxing's roll call of champions lost two of its longest-standing members, WBA junior bantamweight champion Khaosai Galaxy and WBA junior flyweight champion Myung Woo Yuh. Listed below is a complete division-by-division listing of the champions who kept their world titles longest, from Joe Louis, who made 25 defenses at heavyweight, to Freddie "Red" Cochrane, who made one defense at welterweight.

DIVISION	CHAMPION	REIGN	WON TITLE	LOST TITLE	TOTAL DEFENSES
Heavyweight	Joe Louis	11 yrs. 7 mos.	KO 8 James J. Braddock (6-22-37)	Vacated	25
Cruiserweight	Ossie Ocasio	2 yrs. 9 mos.	W 15 Robbie Williams (2-13-82)	L 15 Piet Crous (12-1-84)	4
Light Heavyweight	Archie Moore	9 yrs. 2 mos.	W 15 Joey Maxim (12-17-52)	Stripped	9
Super Middleweight	Chong Pal Park	3 yrs. 6 mos.	KO 11 Murray Sutherland (7-22-84)	Stripped	8
Middleweight	Carlos Monzon	6 yrs. 9 mos.	KO 12 Nino Benvenuti (11-7-70)	Retired	14
Junior Middleweight	Thomas Hearns	3 yrs. 9 mos.	W 15 Wilfred Benitez (12-3-82)	Vacated	4
Welterweight	Freddie Cochrane	4 yrs. 6 mos.	W 15 Fritzie Zivic (7-29-41)	KO by 4 Marty Servo (2-1-46)	1
Junior Welterweight	Bruno Arcari	4 yrs. 6 mos.	W 15 Pedro Adigue (2-1-70)	Vacated	8
Lightweight	Roberto Duran	6 yrs. 7 mos.	KO 13 Ken Buchanan (6-26-72)	Vacated	12
Junior Lightweight	Flash Elorde	7 yrs. 3 mos.	KO 7 Harold Gomes (8-17-60)	L 15 Yoshiaki Numata (6-15-67)	11
Featherweight	Eusebio Pedroza	7 yrs. 2 mos.	KO 13 Cecilio Lastra (4-15-78)	L 15 Barry McGuigan (6-8-85)	20
Junior Featherweight	Wilfredo Gomez	5 yrs. 10 mos.	KO 12 Dong Kyun Kim (5-21-77)	Vacated	17
Bantamweight	Panama Al Brown	5 yrs. 11 mos.	W 15 Gregorio Vidal (6-18-29)	L 15 Baltazar Sangchili (6-1-35)	11
Junior Bantamweight	Khaosai Galaxy	7 yrs. 1 mo.	KO 6 Eusebio Espinal (11-21-84)	Retired	19
Flyweight	Jimmy Wilde	7 yrs. 4 mos.	KO 12 Joe Symonds (2-14-16)	KO by 7 Pancho Villa (6-18-23)	7
Junior Flyweight	Myung Woo Yuh	6 yrs. 0 mos.	W 15 Joey Olivo (12-8-85)	L 12 Hiroki Ioka (12-17-91)	19
Strawweight	Far-lan Lukmingkwan	1 yr. 11 mos.	KO 7 Eric Chavez (2-22-90)	Reigning	5

REIGNS IN BOXING HISTORY

COMMENTS

The longest reign in any division . . . Surpasses next longest reign—in any weight class—by more than two years . . . Froze title from March 1942 to June 1946 during service in WW II . . . Scored stoppages in 21 of 25 defenses

Beats out Evander Holyfield's WBA reign by five months . . . Was first WBA cruiser (then junior heavyweight) champ . . . Kayoed by Larry Holmes in 1979 try for WBC heavyweight title, and subsequently dropped to 190

Incredibly, won title at age 39 (or thereabouts) . . . Twice tried for heavyweight crown during reign . . . Was stripped of NBA version of title in October 1960 . . . Defended twice in a year only once (1954)

Second titlist of division created by IBF in March 1984 . . . Won WBA title two months before being stripped of IBF crown in February 1988 . . . Made record 17 defenses of Oriental & Pacific middleweight title in early-'80s

Ranks with Ray Robinson as greatest 160-pounder of all . . . Unbeaten from October 1964 until exit in August 1977 . . . Defended against, among others, Bennie Briscoe, Emile Griffith, Rodrigo Valdes, and Jose Napoles

A four-division champ best remembered as a welter and middle . . . Held crown between title fight losses to Ray Leonard and Marvin Hagler . . . Did unthinkable by scoring second-round kayo of Roberto Duran in June 1984 defense

Among the least impressive of welter kings . . . Was 64-31-8 when dethroned Zivic . . . Lost non-title return in September 1942 . . . Froze title while in military during WW II . . . Loss to Servo was last fight of career

Beat out legendary Antonio Cervantes, who totaled 6 years, 6 months, but over course of two reigns . . . Short southpaw who fought aggressively and bled often . . . Kept title in Italy for most of championship run

Along with Benny Leonard, considered best 135-pounder of all-time . . . Kayoed 11 of 12 challengers, with only Edwin Viruet lasting distance . . . Rose in weight and won titles at welter, junior middle, and middleweight

Greatest Filipino fighter in history . . . Failed in try at feather title (vs. Sandy Saddler) before success at 130, and lightweight title (vs. Carlos Ortiz) both during and after . . . Defended on road only three times

Overshadowed throughout reign by fellow Panamanian Roberto Duran and co-champion Salvador Sanchez . . . Kept title the hard way—by defending mostly on road . . . Made division-record $1-million for last defense, vs. McGuigan

Among era's most active champions . . . Won titles at feather and junior lightweight . . . Kayoed previously unbeaten Carlos Zarate in October 1978 defense, but was kayoed by Salvador Sanchez in August 1981 bid for feather crown

At 5'11½", tallest bantam champ in history . . . Globetrotting titlist defended in, among other cities, Montreal, Marseilles, London, Toronto, Paris, Tunis, and New York City . . . Brought stability to unsettled division

Rates with Gilberto Roman as best 115-pounder in division's 12-year history . . . Barrel-chested southpaw frequently rose from canvas to score thrilling kayos . . . Made almost all his defenses in native Thailand

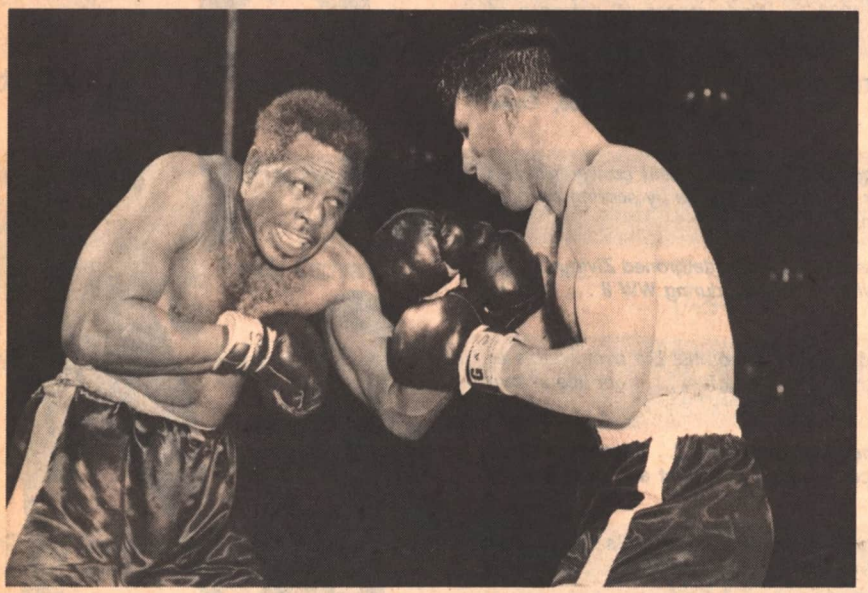
Scrawny Welshman never approached division's 112-pound limit, but was arguably boxing's all-time hardest puncher, pound for pound . . . Often fought heavier foes . . . Was unable to find suitable competition during WW I

Failed to score a kayo in first 13 bouts, but developed into complete fighter . . . First bout outside of Korea was title fight loss to Ioka . . . Topped accomplishments of countryman and all-time great 108-pounder Jung Koo Chang

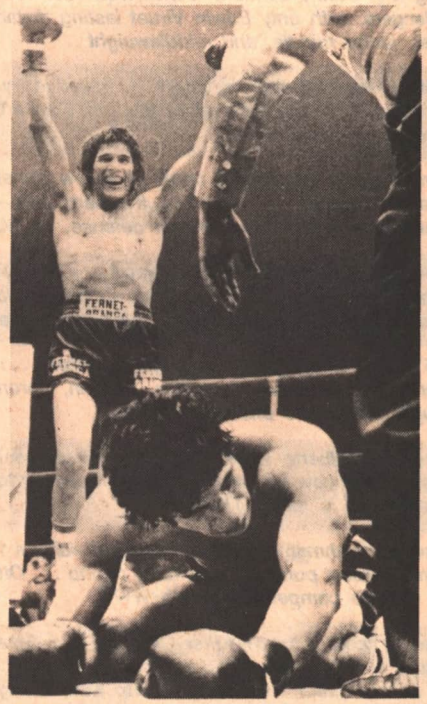
Division is only 4½ years old . . . Thai southpaw is current IBF 105-pound champ . . . Has specialized in defending against challengers from Philippines . . . Boxes aggressively, but not much of a powerpuncher

BOXING'S LONGEST-REIGNING CHAMPIONS

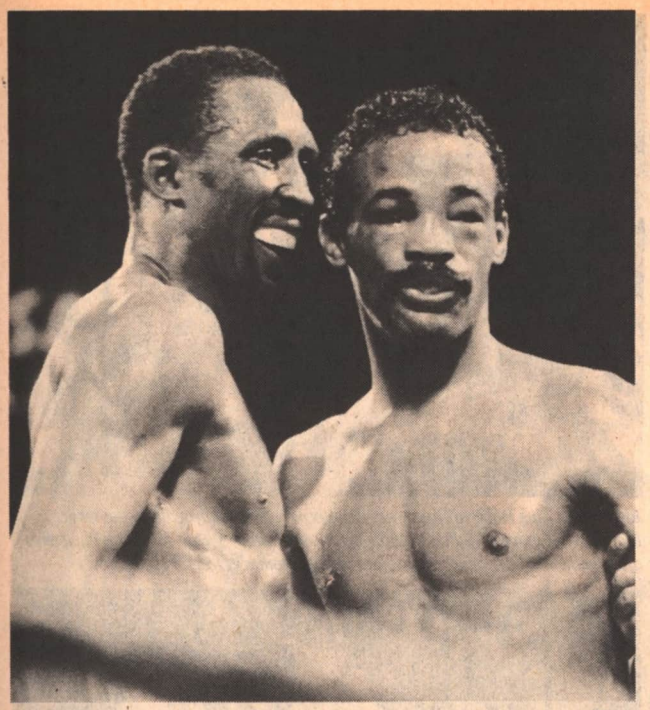
Don't let the picture fool you: Joe Louis has just retained the heavyweight title by outpointing Tommy Farr over 15 rounds. It was the first of Louis' record 25 defenses.



In a thrilling defense, ageless Archie Moore rose from the canvas to kayo Yvon Durelle (above). A flop at heavyweight, Ossie Ocasio became the first WBA cruiserweight titlist when he outpointed Robbie Williams (below).

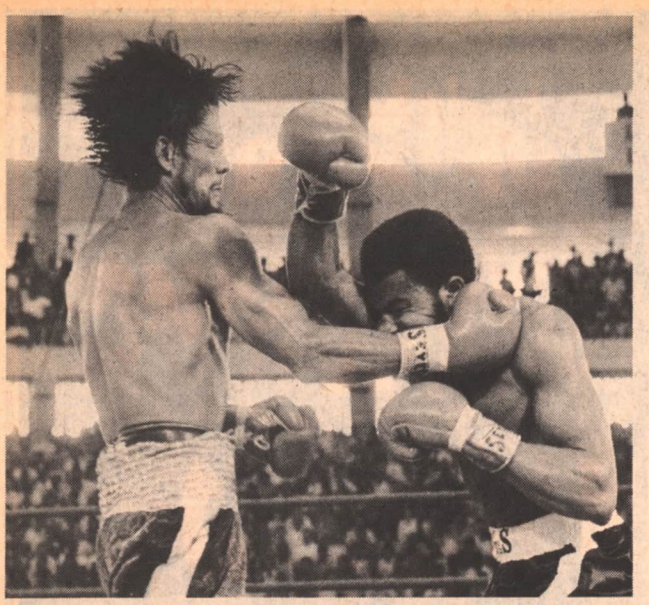


December 1975: A world titlist and international playboy, Argentina's Carlos Monzon defended the middleweight title in Paris and kayoed Gratien Tonna in five rounds.

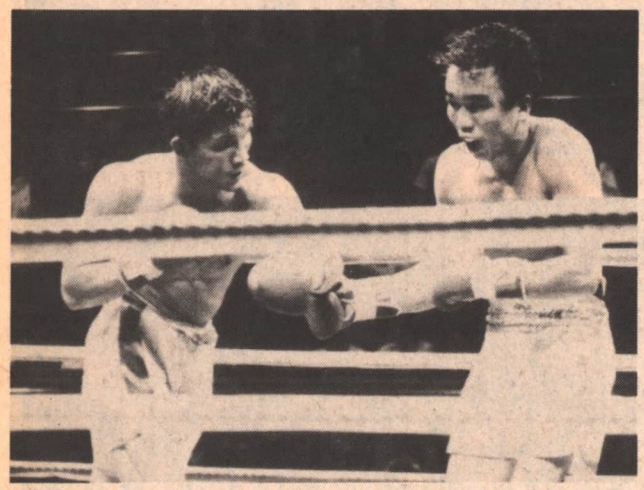


Above left: Thomas Hearns, pictured after stopping Mark Medal in June 1986, is best known for winning titles at welter and middleweight. But his reign at 154 pounds was the longest in that division's history. Above right: Freddie Cochrane used his head in his defense vs. Fritzie Zivic, but still lost the welterweight title. He reigned during World War II.

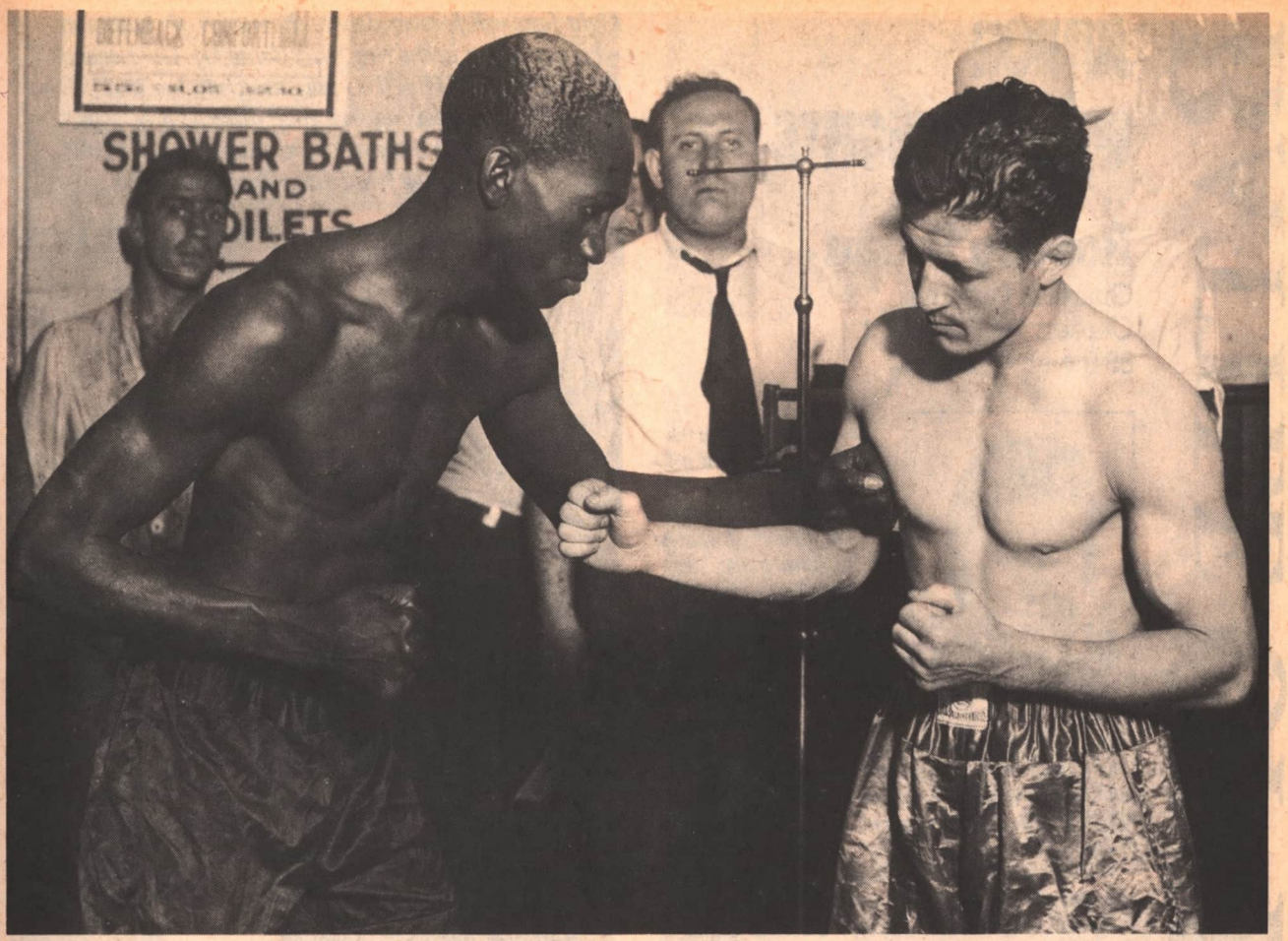
Asked to name the longest-reigning junior welterweight champion in history, most fans wouldn't guess Italy's underrated Bruno Arcari, shown during his blood-soaked March 1971 defense against Joao Henrique in Rome. Fighting mostly in his native land, Arcari made eight defenses over 4½ years and, in August 1974, relinquished the throne.



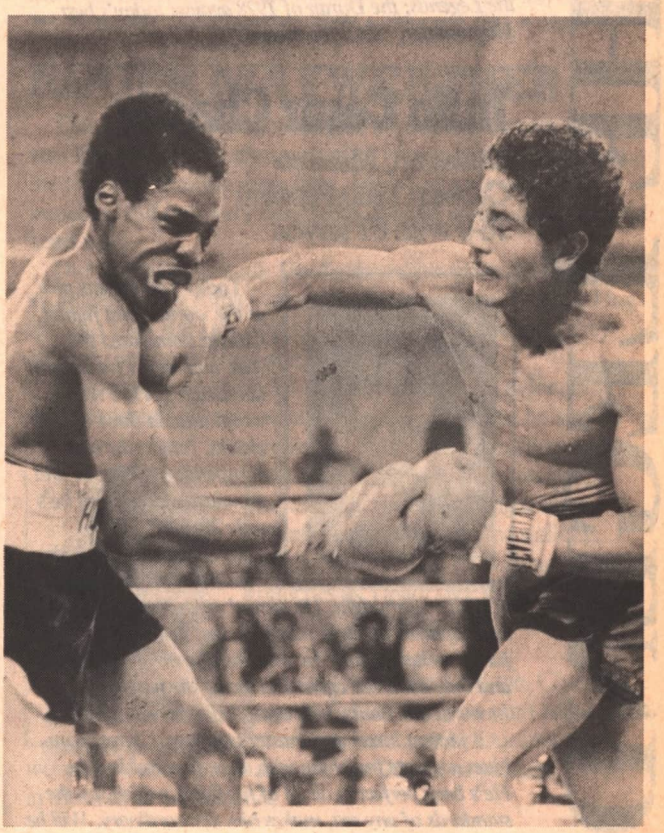
Lightweight king Roberto Duran was at his peak when he kayoed Ray Lampkin in March 1975 (above left). Flash Elorde became an instant hero in his native Philippines after taking the 130-pound crown from Harold Gomes in March 1960 (above).



Junior bantam Khaosai Galaxy (above vs. Kenji Matsumura) and junior fly Myung Woo Yuh (above right vs. Leo Gamez) reigned into the '90s. Featherweight Eusebio Pedroza (below vs. Juan LaPorte) kept the crown for more than seven years.



Master boxer Panama Al Brown, pictured squaring off against Domenico Bernasconi, was not only the longest-reigning bantamweight champion in history, but, at 5'11", also the tallest. Brown won the vacant crown by outpointing Gregorio Vidal in June 1929, and kept it until losing by decision to Spain's Baltazar Sangchili in June 1935.



When "Mighty Atom" Jimmy Wilde prepared to face Pancho Villa in June 1923 (above left), the powerpunching Welshman was well past his prime. Villa took the flyweight title by seventh-round kayo. Triple-crown champion Wilfredo Gomez was particularly dominant at 122 pounds. In August 1980, he kayoed Derrik Holmes in five rounds (above right).

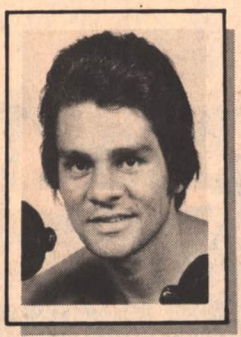
BATTLE OF THE LEGENDS

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

Fight fans will forever debate the merits of champions who never met in the ring. In "Battle Of The Legends," the editors of THE RING play matchmaker and pit two of the all-time greats against each other. Three experts serve as judges. If there are particular dream matches that you'd like to see featured, please write to us.

Roberto Duran

Guarare, Panama
Career: 1967-Present
85-9 with 60 kayos

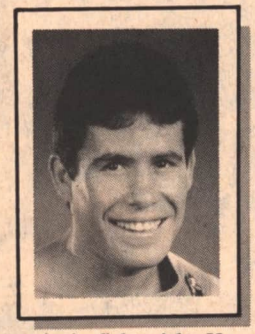


Slowly fading from the spotlight, Duran, now a 40-year-old super middleweight, continues to struggle. But because of what he accomplished in the '70s, the four-division champion is considered by many historians to be the greatest lightweight of all-time. Interestingly, after vacating the 135-pound throne in February 1979, he chose to leapfrog the junior welterweight class. Duran fought only three times at 140 pounds, and then focused on reigning WBC welterweight king Sugar Ray Leonard, whom he dethroned in June 1980.

During Duran's brief stay at junior welter, the world champions were Colombia's Antonio Cervantes and Thailand's Saensak Muangsurin. We'll never know how the Panamanian would have fared against those outstanding titlists. We'll have to settle for this Battle of the Legends: the Duran of 1978 against today's best 140-pounder, "J.C. Superstar."

Julio Cesar Chavez

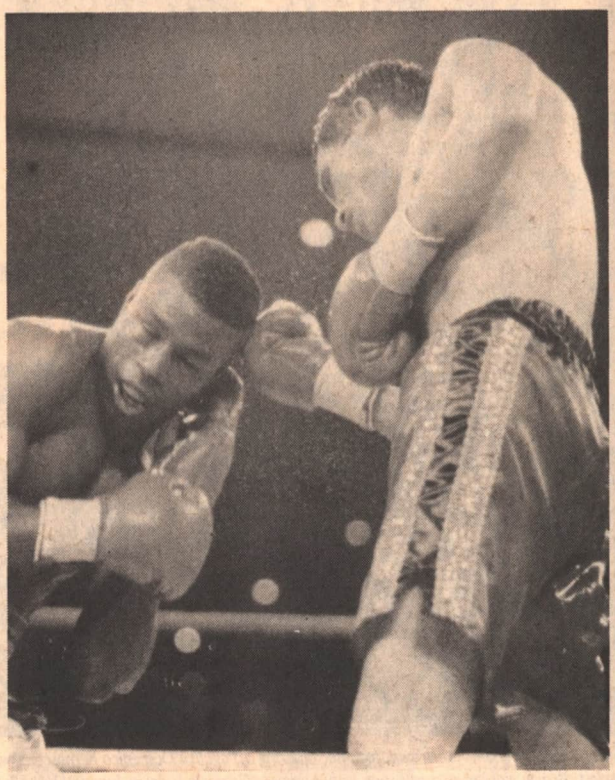
Culiacan, Mexico
Career: 1980-Present
78-0 with 67 kayos



Today's consensus pick as the world's best fighter, Chavez dominated the '80s, and shows no signs of decelerating. He's won world titles in three weight classes, fought the best competition available, and remained active. And he's only 29.

In September 1984, the Mexican won his first title, at junior lightweight. He moved up in November 1987 and captured the lightweight crown. Today he rules at junior welterweight—he won the title in May 1989—and may soon rise again and tackle the welterweights. In world title bouts, he's compiled a record of 20-0.

A patient boxer and master infighter, Chavez combines accurate punching with an impenetrable chin. He's been perfect in all 78 of his fights, which, by the standards of any era, makes him extraordinary. Will he ever lose? If Roberto Duran were 10 years younger, he might provide the answer.



Meldrick Taylor demanded the very best from Chavez, and got it, during their unforgettable shootout in March 1990. Chavez won by 12th-round TKO.

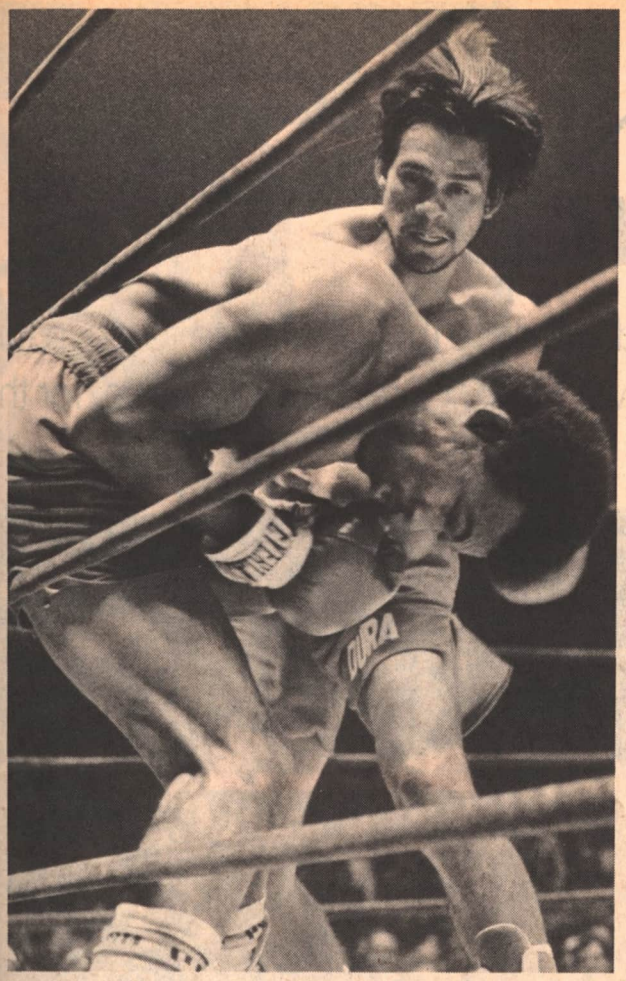
EMANUEL STEWARD

What a great matchup this would be! The Duran of the late-'70s and today's Chavez are very experienced and well-balanced fighters, with underrated defenses. And, at these stages of their careers, both are still at the top of their games.

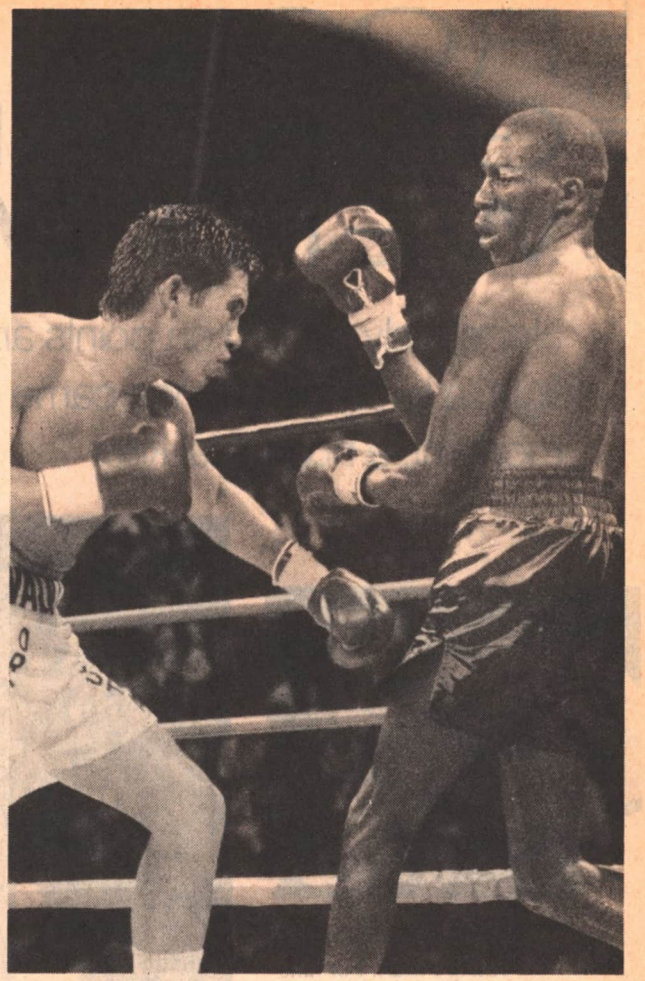
Neither would do anything out of the ordinary, but Duran, knowing that Chavez is a great boxer, would be more tactical, like he was in his third fight with Esteban DeJesus. One of Duran's biggest advantages would be his hand speed; Meldrick Taylor gave Chavez problems with speed.

I see a lot of punches being thrown, but not that many landing. Both men have great chins and stamina to go along with their ability. I see a fast-paced fight all the way. Duran was susceptible to left hook counters; that's how he suffered his two knockdowns against DeJesus. Chavez also has that sneaky right lead, which he would be able to land. Chavez' stamina is better than Duran's, and he'd do better late. Over 15 rounds, Chavez would win in a very close decision.

Emanuel Steward is the leader of the famed Kronk gym. He trains and manages, among others, heavyweight Michael Moorer, cruiserweight Dennis Andries, and light heavyweight Leeonzer Barber.



Duran had only three bouts at junior welterweight. His most impressive 140-pound performance was an eighth-round stoppage of Monroe Brooks in December 1978.

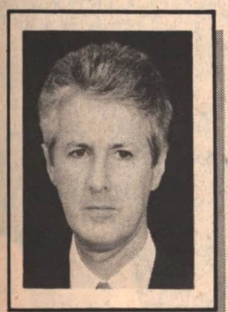


Chavez has twice halted dangerous two-division champion Roger Mayweather. In their second bout, "J.C. Superstar" scored a 10th-round TKO in May 1989.

ALEX WALLAU

This is truly a dream match between two magnificent fighters who are known for their toughness, but underrated for their outstanding boxing skill and their ability to adapt. Neither was a devastating puncher, but each put the pressure on throughout the fight. Duran was the superior defensive fighter, but despite all their fights, both are unmarked.

The fight would be exciting because of the stature of the two men, but not because of the action. It would be primarily a tactical bout, like Duran-DeJesus III, and Chavez-Edwin Rosario. Duran would get into the fight from the opening bell, with Chavez showing his usual patience. As the fight progressed, Duran would initiate most of the exchanges, as well as finish them. There would be a sameness to the rounds, with the Panamanian winning on his superior reflexes and defense—but not by much.



With an insurmountable lead, Duran would take the last two rounds off, a la the Leonard fight in Montreal. Neither man would be knocked down, hurt, or cut. Over 15 rounds, I'd give it to Duran, 9-5-1 in rounds.

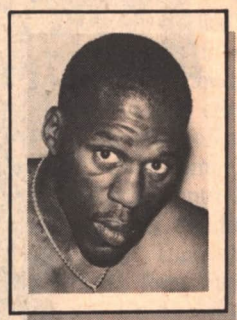
Alex Wallau is the boxing analyst for ABC-TV.

ROGER MAYWEATHER

This would be a hell of a fight. I would love to see it. Chavez, like Duran, is very aggressive. He is a master at cutting off the ring and making guys fight. He is not a devastating puncher, but he's very consistent, and he works the body and head well.

Duran could do it all. He displayed his extraordinary skills vs. bigger and stronger men, like Ray Leonard, Marvin Hagler, and Iran Barkley. Duran was past his prime, and they were at the top of their games.

It would be a fast-paced fight, like Chavez-Taylor, only more dramatic. Duran would be moving up, but he's more experienced than Taylor, much stronger, better defensively, and he hits much harder. That's the fight right there. Duran would be doing the stalking, but he wouldn't get hit with as many punches as Taylor did, and he wouldn't get beaten up like Meldrick did, either.



Don't misunderstand me, Chavez is a great fighter. But you can't rate his accomplishments with Duran's. It would be a unanimous decision for Duran, or perhaps a TKO in the 13th or 14th round.

Roger Mayweather, a former junior lightweight and junior welterweight champion, has lost two title fights to Chavez. ■

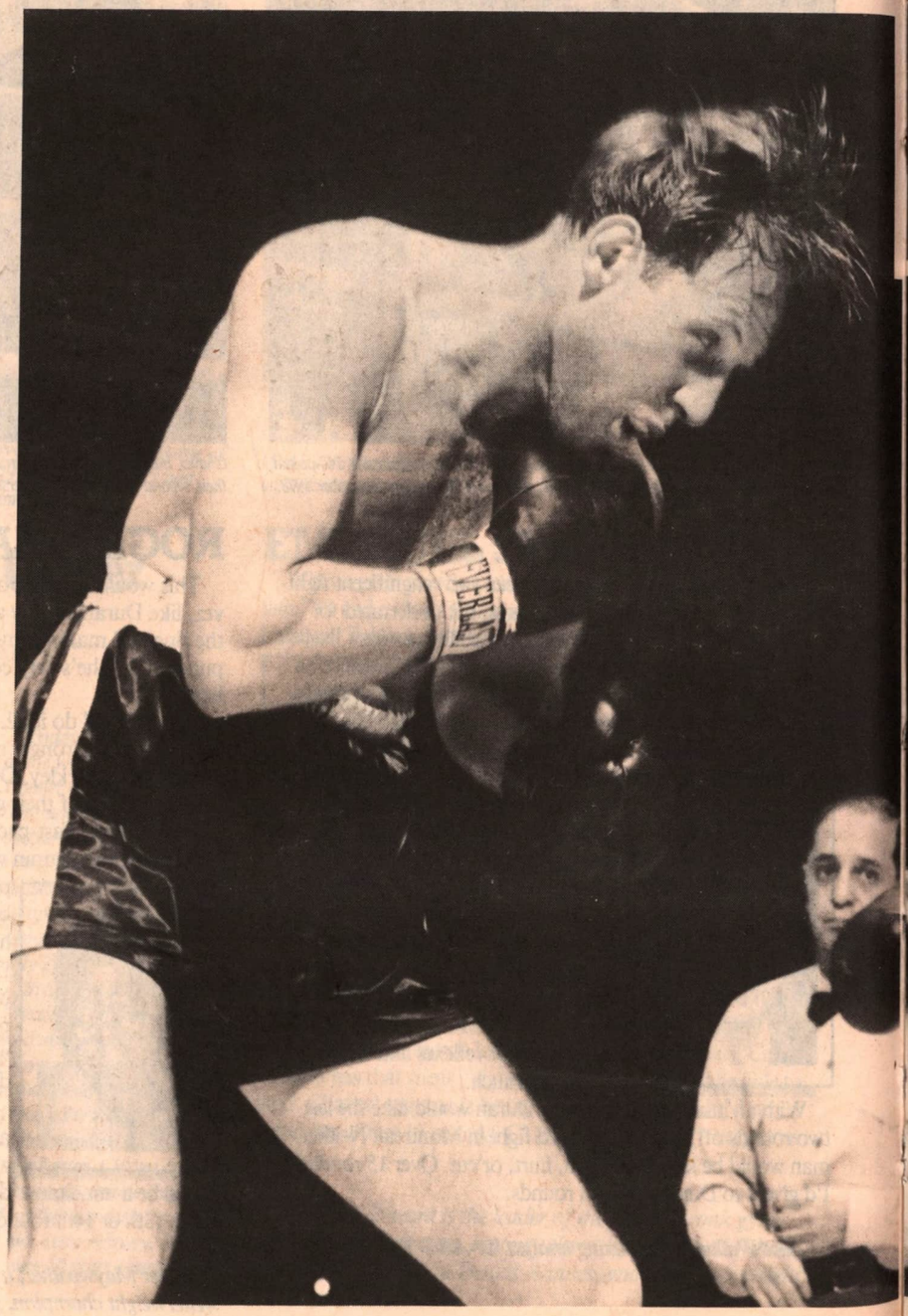
THE NIGHT

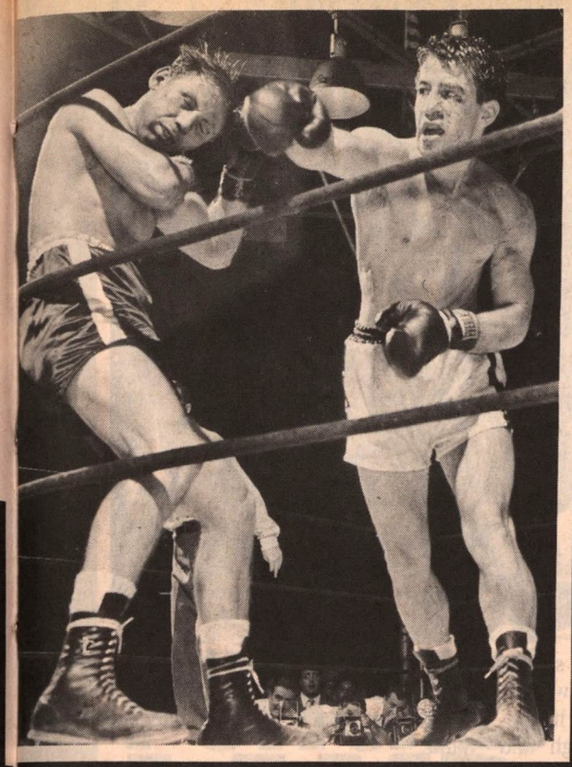
ROCKY GRAZIANO WENT *WILD!*

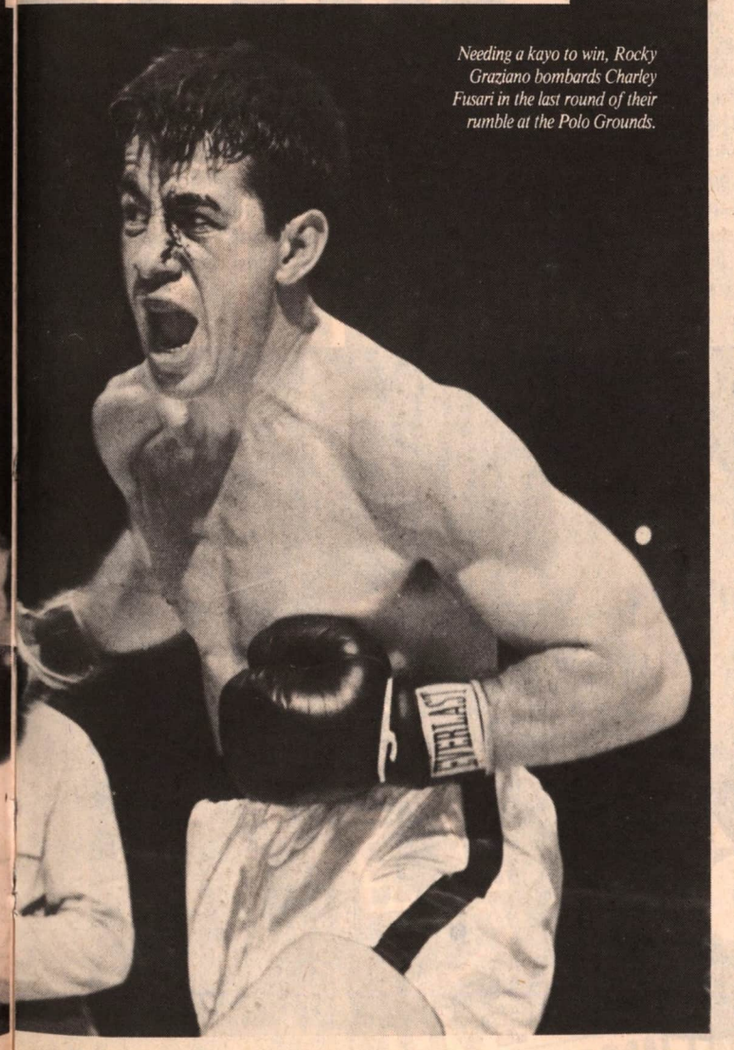
Hopelessly behind on points and with less than a minute to go in the fight, a terrifying change came over Rocky Graziano. He was, for the moment, a homicidal killer

"I fought this fast-coming young Fusari. For nine rounds, Fusari ran me ragged. I choked on my own wind and stumbled over my own feet, and when the 10th come up, my corner knew that I was losing the fight. That last round I prayed and punched and got my strength I don't know from where, and for two minutes I felt like Rocky Graziano the old killer. For one little flash, I was years younger. It was enough to fold up Charley Fusari."

—From Rocky Graziano's autobiography, *Somebody Up There Likes Me.*







Needing a kayo to win, Rocky Graziano bombards Charley Fusari in the last round of their rumble at the Polo Grounds.

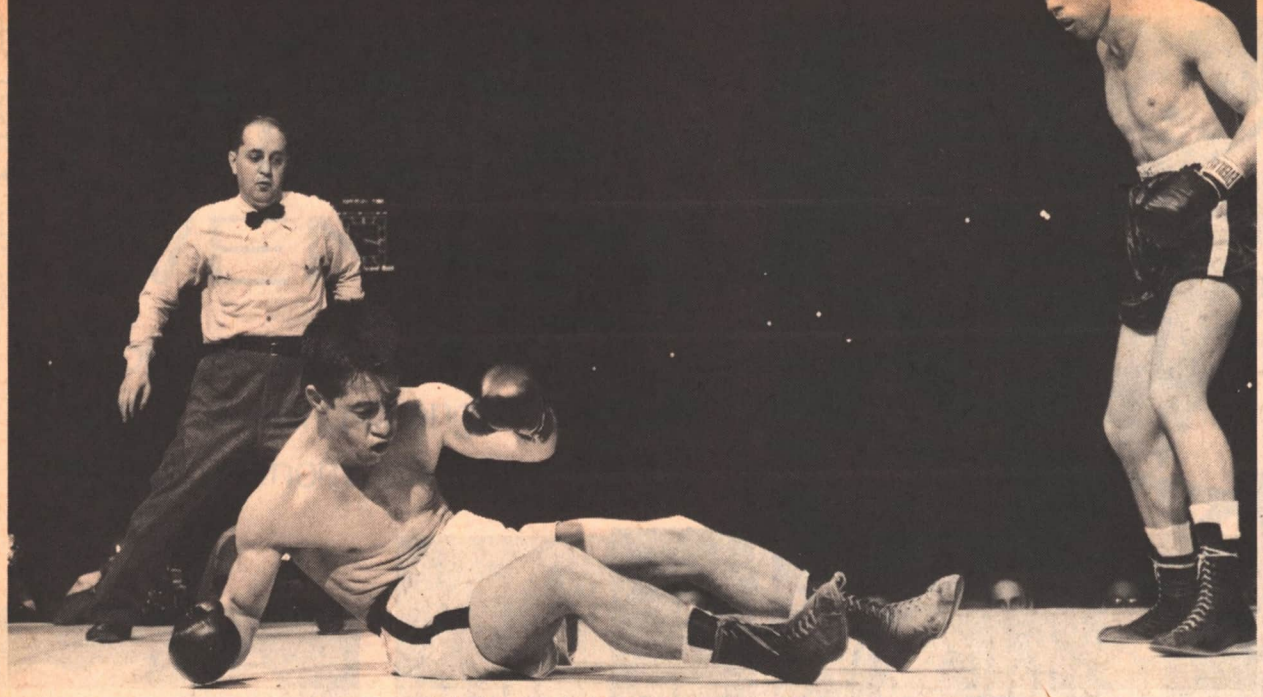
There was a lot more to that savage 10th round of the Graziano-Fusari fight at New York's Polo Grounds, September 14, 1949, than Graziano would admit. For in the final seconds, dead-end kid Graziano, 159½, went stark raving mad. He had the sagging Fusari, 147½, pinned against the ropes, the open glove of his left hand clutched around the stricken fighter's windpipe, squeezing with one hand and clubbing him over the head with the other. Blood poured from Fusari's nose. His eyes rolled crazily in his head, and his breath came in short, desperate gasps.

"Break," yelled referee Ruby Goldstein, who noticed the wild look in Graziano's eyes. "Break!"

But the crazed man didn't hear him. With the blood-curdling cries of 31,000 fans ringing in his ears, and the sight of a helpless, blood-splattered man reeling before him, Rocky Graziano—fighter had been transformed into Rocky Graziano—raving maniac.

Suddenly Goldstein made the decision he had been debating. There were only 56 seconds to go in the fight—a fight Fusari couldn't lose if it went the distance. Goldstein knew it, the 31,000 knew it, Fusari was too stupified to know it, and Graziano didn't have the facilities to comprehend *anything.*

Goldstein jumped between the raging Graziano and the helpless Fusari.



Graziano slips to the canvas in round two. The quicker Fusari easily outboxed the former champion.

"Stop punching, Graziano!" he yelled. But Rocky didn't stop. He tried to loop long hooks behind Goldstein and into Fusari. Ruby took two or three on his arms and shoulders. Then Rocky's seconds tore into the ring and held down his churning arms. Like a racehorse after a race, they slowly cooled him down. Rocky shook his head from side to side. The wild stare slowly gave way to a look of shocked normality. Again he shook his head and glanced out at the mass of swarming humanity before him.

Irving Cohen, his manager, rubbed the back of his neck and smiled.

"Fine work, Rocky," Irving said in his gentle, soothing way. "Fine work."

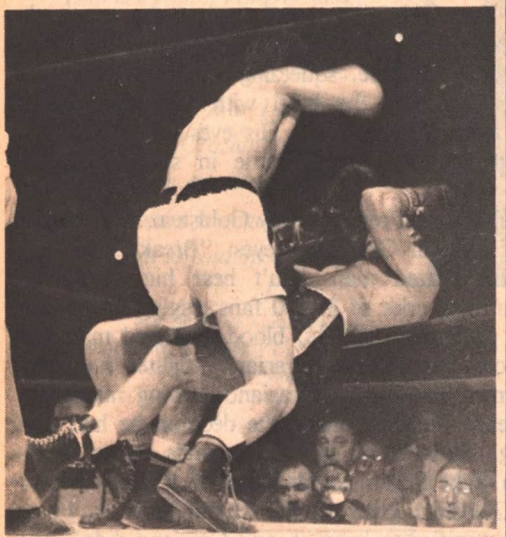
When Rocky snapped out of his homicidal fit, he started to laugh and wave his hands and throw kisses to the crowd. Then he looked across the ring at Fusari. Charley was propped up on his stool, his back sagged against the corner ropes. They waved the smelling salts under his nose, but that had little or no effect. The doctor examined his eyes for the tell-tale signs of brain injury. Fusari's manager, Vic Marsello, his face grim and pale, rubbed Charley's neck and wiped the blood from under his nose. It was the first kayo loss of Fusari's career.

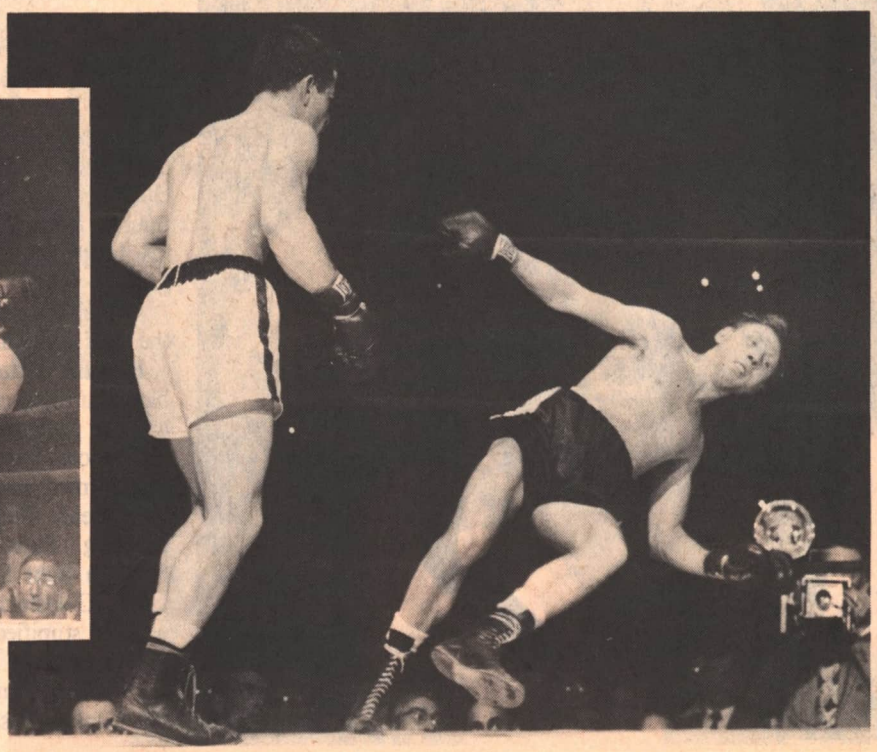
Graziano walked over to Fusari's corner and stuck out his bandaged hand.

"No hard feelings, Charley," the winner said. "You put up a helluva fight. I'm lucky I tagged yer."

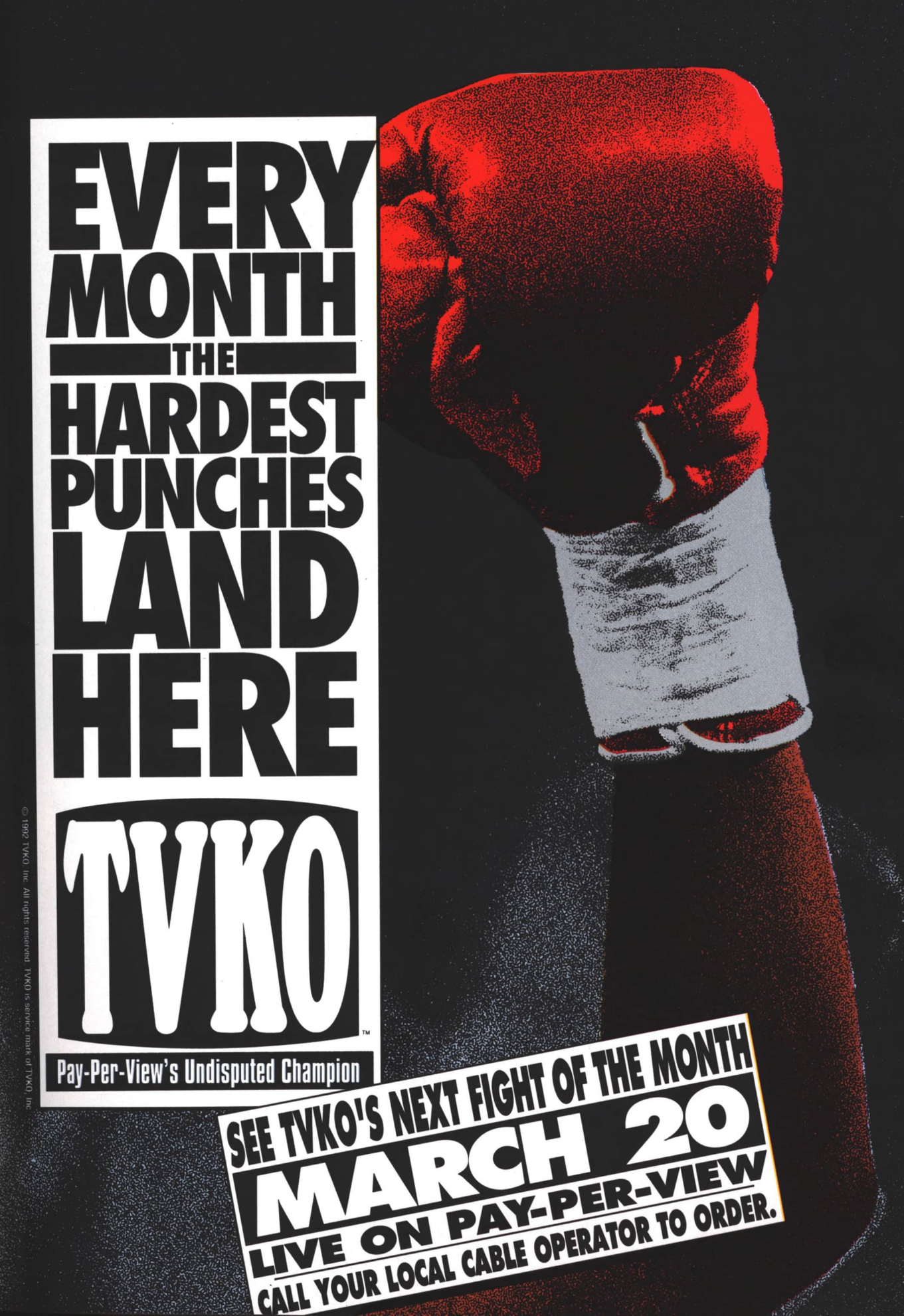
Fusari nodded and tried to smile.

Graziano was pulled to the center of the ring, where the announcer held up his hand, and the photographers snapped pictures by the dozen. He waved and laughed. The killer in him was gone. Now he was once again a human being. ■





Graziano's ferocity in the 10th round produced a shocking come-from-behind kayo victory. The fight was stopped with less than a minute to go.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Boxing's Mad About James Toney, and James Toney's Mad About Everything

By Jeff Ryan

The fire that burns in a man's eyes or engulfs the back of his neck is like any other fire: It can be a best friend, or a worst enemy. The difference between controlled rage and uncontrolled rage is the difference between 200,000 equal-rights demonstrators marching peacefully on Washington, and Watts aflame. The difference between quiet sit-ins, and Kent State. The difference between restraining a criminal until the police arrive, or encouraging the crowd to stomp him to death.

If love can charm the pants off clear thinking, then anger can barrel it over and step on its head. That's why, more often than not, fury is not such a good thing to carry around. Carry it in your car, and you'll give a nun the finger because she stole the parking space you'd been eyeing from a half-block away. Bring it into the house, and the Lenox china is in danger. Take it to work with you, and you're liable to punch someone out before you even punch yourself in.

Angry carpenters walk around with swollen thumbs. Cops who can't holster their rage do things people wouldn't believe unless they see them in living black-and-blue on somebody's home video. A surgeon working angry—no, that's something we don't even want to think about.

Then there's the boxer. To the uninitiated, boxing may seem to be the one profession that tolerates, even embraces, the angry young man. Rage + violence = ring success, isn't that the equation? Hardly. The successful fighter must be intense, yes. Mean-spirited, perhaps. But never, ever consumed with blinding rage. Dire are the consequences of fighting mad.

"You can't do it," says James "Lights Out" Toney, the undefeated IBF middleweight champion. "A good opponent, like a Terry Norris, he'd peck an angry guy to death with the jab. The more the guy got hit, the more he'd get mad. Then he'd lose focus of his game plan and get knocked out."

JAMES TONEY

THE YEAR THAT WAS

We're willing to bet that at the beginning of 1991, most boxing fans had never heard of James Toney. Now he's a pay-per-view fighter, a world champion, and the best middleweight in the world. These are the fights that made him:

■ **W 12 Merqui Sosa, Atlantic City, January 12:** How far has Toney come? On this ESPN-televised show, Toney-Sosa, a battle of unbeaten prospects, is an *undercard bout!* (The main event is Charles Murray-David Taylor.) Sosa carries the reputation as a monstrous hitter, but Toney floors him in the third round and competes evenly on the inside. He clearly deserves the decision. The scoring, however, is bizarre: 115-112 and 117-109 for Toney, and 114-113 for Sosa.

■ **KO 6 Alberto Gonzalez, Las Vegas, March 31:** With 20 kayos in 26 wins, Gonzalez seems like a risk. But Toney issues all the punishment in what is, on paper at least, his easiest fight of the year.

■ **KO 11 Michael Nunn, Davenport, IA, May 10:** All Toney does is come from behind to score a spectacular knockout in Nunn's hometown. Outboxed for nine rounds, the challenger begins to land his right in the 10th. A hook in the 11th drops the unbeaten IBF champion, and later in the round, a right produces another knockdown—and the end of the fight.

At the time of the kayo, Toney, a 20-1 underdog, is trailing by four, six, and eight points.

"Oh, my God!" is all Jackie Kallen, Toney's manager, can offer.

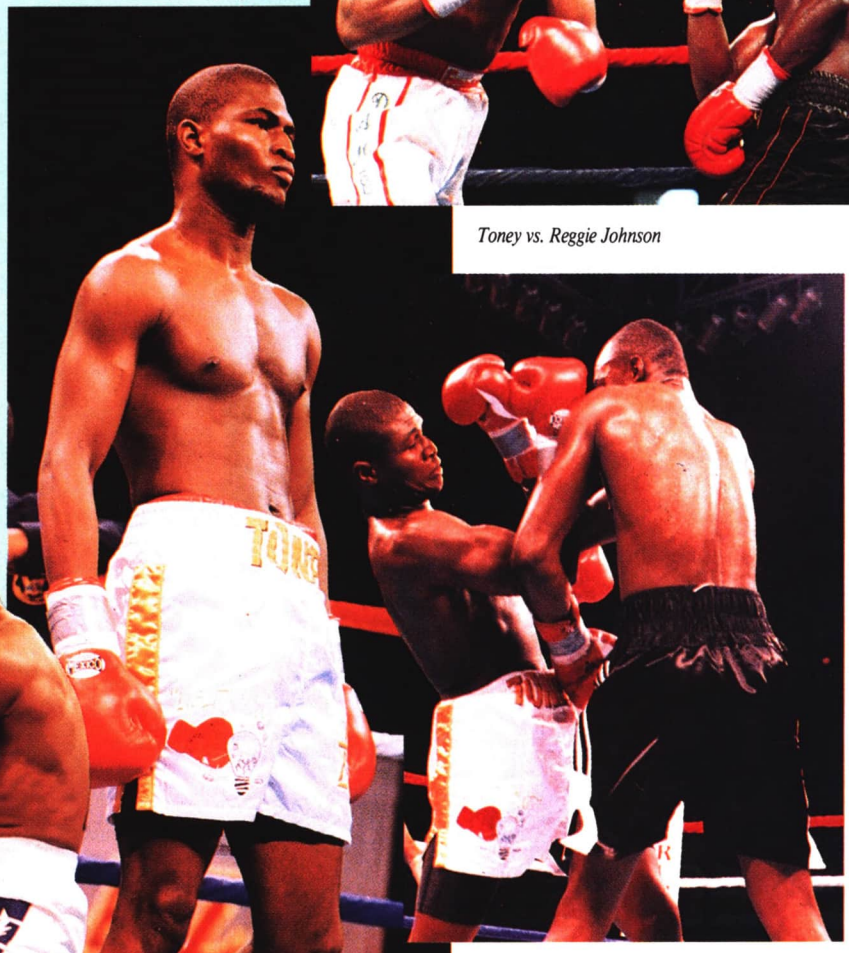
■ **W 12 Reggie Johnson, Las Vegas, June 29:** Only seven weeks after winning the title, Toney defends against a difficult and speedy southpaw. Johnson, the number-one contender, scores a flash knockdown in round two, and, keeping his distance, proves difficult to hit. Toney suffers a nasty cut over his left eye in the final round, but finishes aggressively, and survives by split decision. (Scores: 115-112, 114-113, and 113-114.)

■ **KO 4 Francesco Dell'Aquila, Monte Carlo, October 12:** Toney fails to make weight by a half-pound, but the challenger agrees to waive the rule. Aware that he is ill-prepared for a distance fight, the champion demands a fast pace and steamrolls the former European champion, who is clearly a level below.

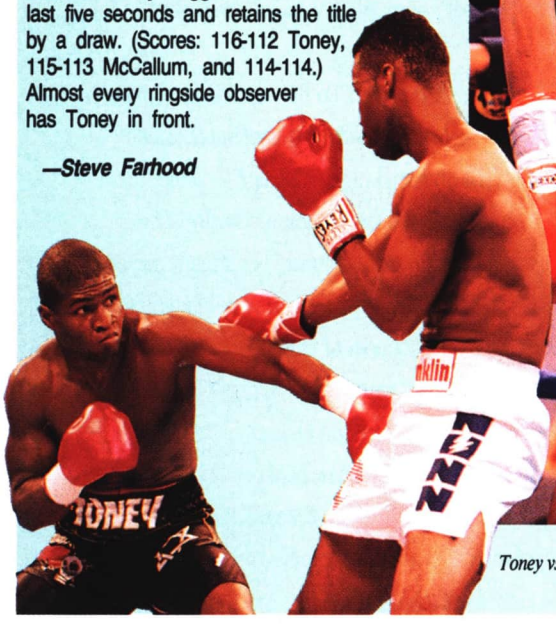
■ **D 12 Mike McCallum, Atlantic City, December 13:** In his toughest test, Toney leaves nothing in reserve against one of the best boxers of the '80s. What starts as a chess match turns into a sensational shootout of rights and counter rights. Both middleweights are exhausted at the end, but Toney staggers McCallum in the bout's last five seconds and retains the title by a draw. (Scores: 116-112 Toney, 115-113 McCallum, and 114-114.) Almost every ringside observer has Toney in front.

—Steve Farhood

Toney vs. Reggie Johnson



Toney vs. Mike McCallum



Toney vs. Michael Nunn

Just as the alcoholic can sit and list the reasons he shouldn't drink, so too, can Toney, *The Ring's* 1991 Fighter of the Year, talk about the dangers of going ballistic. But for him, keeping anger in check—both in the ring and out—is not a simple case of mind over matter. It's more like a 24-hour-a-day wrestling match with a grizzly bear on steroids.

Toney is as suited to be the cover boy on a magazine named *Mad,* as on one entitled *The Ring,* and he'd tell Alfred E. Neuman to his face. There are more vicious fighters in this most vicious of businesses, but Toney is the

only one at the championship level who walks around with a boiling point of 98.7.

After a fight, even one he's ended in 90 seconds, bad ass Mike Tyson wears the most relieved expression this side of William Kennedy Smith. Michael Moorer, who says he one day wants to break a guy's cheekbone just to see what it looks like pushed in, can't even bring himself to look the opponent in the eye during the referee's instructions. For him, rage is a sudden, inexplicable phenomenon that overtakes him *after* he has an opponent hurt. Toney's anger doesn't wait that long. He's livid if the pen he's using to sign the fight contract doesn't have the right color ink.

"When he's mad, he'll put his fist through a glass window, throw a chair, knock over a table," explains Jackie Kallen, Toney's manager. "There's a valve in James. Sometimes I can see the mercury start to rise, and I know a tantrum is coming. You usually *do* get a warning. If you don't get out of his way then, it's your stupidity. His mood is like a wave. You have to ride with it. If you try to fight it, you'll get wiped out."

"It calms down after I hit something," Toney says. "When I'm mad, get out of my way or suffer the consequences."

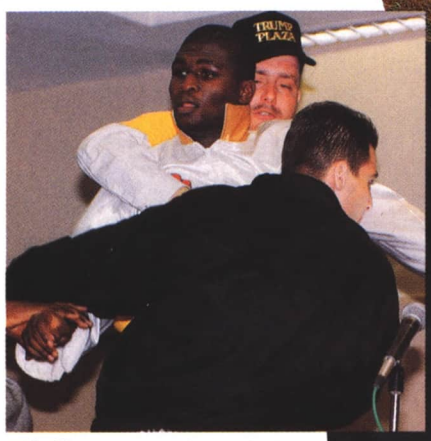
The spontaneous combustion can be caused by just about anything from the entourage not being ready to leave for the gym when he is, to his being mocked by an opponent he particularly dislikes. When Toney was getting ready to climb on the scale for his first world title shot last May, IBF king Michael Nunn disdainfully touched the challenger's chin and pretended to pick lint off his head. Toney didn't share in the humor.

"Nunn is arrogant and cocky and I tried to hurt him *real bad,*" Toney says. "I tried to put him in the hospital for a while. That fight would have been a lot easier if I was calm. But I went right after him and got out of my game plan. I forgot the body attack and went headhunting."

In round 11, Nunn's chin finally appeared in Toney's rifle scope, and the challenger pulled the trigger on a left hook. Boom! No, it may not be wise to wrestle with that grizzly bear, but, for once, the beast was pinned.

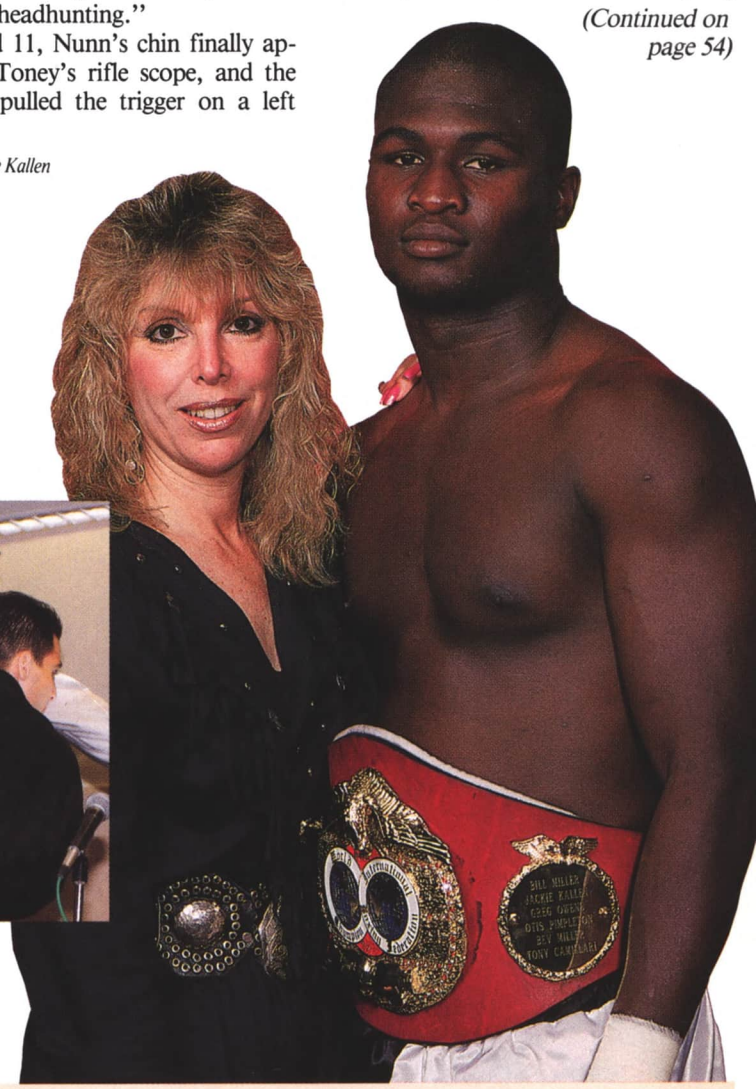
Following his controversial draw with Mike McCallum in December, a fight Toney appeared to have clearly won, the champion became enraged at McCallum's lawyer, Milt Chwasky. When promoter Bob Arum was criticizing the card of the one judge who voted for McCallum, Chwasky shouted to the promoter, "Bulls____!" Eyeing

(Continued on page 54)



The Toney temper on display after his thrilling draw with Mike McCallum.

Toney & Jackie Kallen



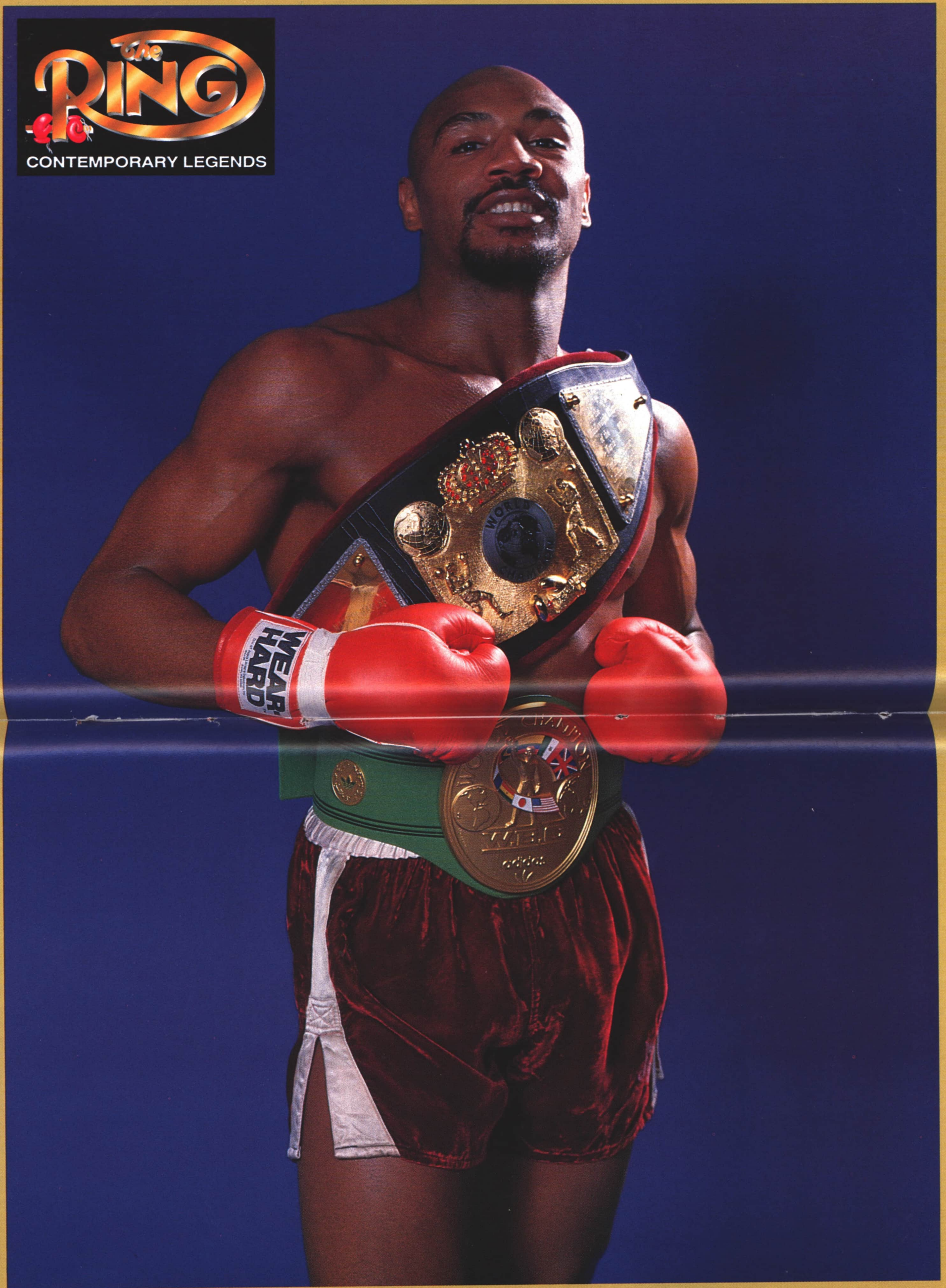
RING'S FIGHTER OF THE YEAR

James Toney is the 66th recipient of *The Ring's* Fighter of the Year award, and the 10th different middleweight winner. (The first was Fred Apostoli in 1943.) A complete listing:

1928: Gene Tunney
1929: Tommy Loughran
1930: Max Schmeling
1931: Tommy Loughran
1932: Jack Sharkey
1933: No Award
1934: Tony Canzoneri/ Barney Ross
1935: Barney Ross
1936: Joe Louis
1937: Henry Armstrong
1938: Joe Louis
1939: Joe Louis
1940: Billy Conn
1941: Joe Louis
1942: Ray Robinson
1943: Fred Apostoli
1944: Beau Jack
1945: Willie Pep
1946: Tony Zale
1947: Gus Lesnevich
1948: Ike Williams
1949: Ezzard Charles
1950: Ezzard Charles
1951: Ray Robinson
1952: Rocky Marciano
1953: Bobo Olson
1954: Rocky Marciano
1955: Rocky Marciano
1956: Floyd Patterson
1957: Carmen Basilio
1958: Ingemar Johansson
1959: Ingemar Johansson
1960: Floyd Patterson
1961: Joe Brown
1962: Dick Tiger
1963: Cassius Clay
1964: Emile Griffith
1965: Dick Tiger
1966: No Award
1967: Joe Frazier
1968: Nino Benvenuti
1969: Jose Napoles
1970: Joe Frazier
1971: Joe Frazier
1972: Muhammad Ali/ Carlos Monzon
1973: George Foreman
1974: Muhammad Ali
1975: Muhammad Ali
1976: George Foreman
1977: Carlos Zarate
1978: Muhammad Ali
1979: Ray Leonard
1980: Thomas Hearns
1981: Ray Leonard/ Salvador Sanchez
1982: Larry Holmes
1983: Marvin Hagler
1984: Thomas Hearns
1985: Marvin Hagler/ Donald Curry
1986: Mike Tyson
1987: Evander Holyfield
1988: Mike Tyson
1989: Pernell Whitaker
1990: Julio Cesar Chavez
1991: James Toney

The RING

CONTEMPORARY LEGENDS



MARVELOUS MARVIN HAGLER

Undisputed World Middleweight Champion

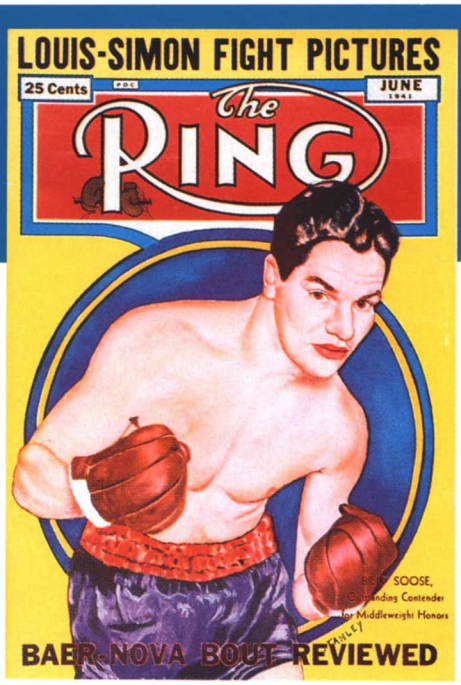
Born: Newark, New Jersey; May 23, 1954

Title Reign: September 27, 1980-April 6, 1987

FORMER MIDDLEWEIGHT CHAMP BILLY SOOSE

The College Kid Who Made The Grade

Soose and trainer Ray Arcel before the middleweight's critical Chicago confrontation with Tony Zale in August 1940. Soose won a 10-round decision.



*Soose on the June 1941 cover of **The Ring** (above). The 76-year-old former champion is ready to go 15 rounds (below).*

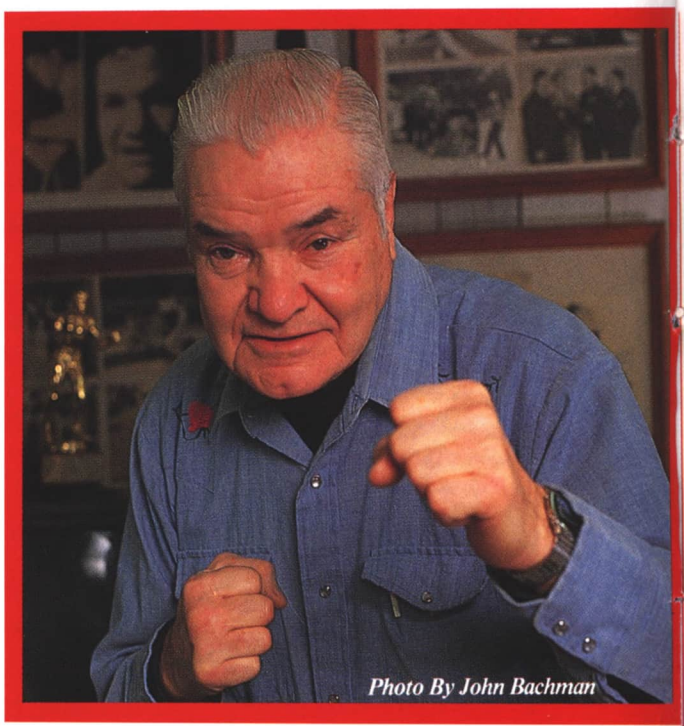


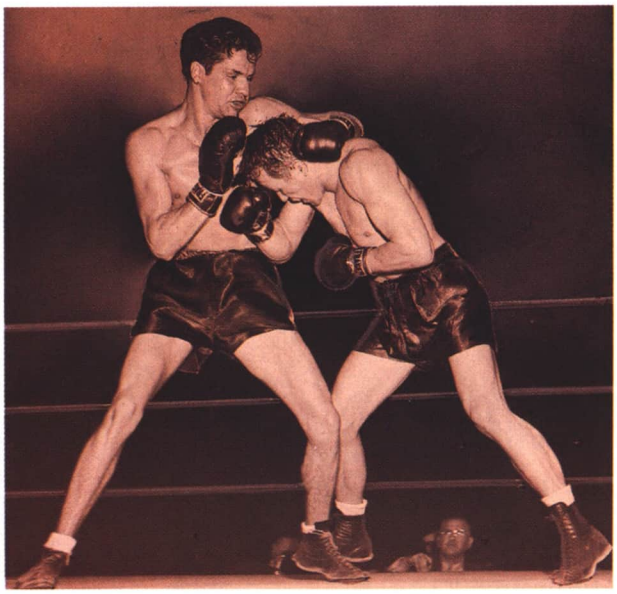
Photo By John Bachman

By Roger Mooney

Traditionalists once scoffed at the idea of a college boy swapping blows in the professional ring. Too many hours in the classroom and not enough time in the gym. A college boy was too smart for his own good. Sure, he could hammer away at another bookworm behind ivy-covered walls, but put him in a smoke-filled gym against a guy with a third-grade education, and it wouldn't take long before the real fighter emerged.

"The college boy never lived who could really fight," said Billy Conn before his 1940 fight with New York University alumnus Bob Pastor. As if to prove his point, Conn scored a 13th-round knockout.

For the most part, Conn was right. At the time, history supported his claim; a world champion had yet to emerge



from the college ranks. But brawn took a backseat to brains in the early-'40s, when Billy Soose left the halls of higher learning and rocketed through the middleweight division.

At first glance, Soose appeared to be Joe College all the way. Standing 6-foot, he was smooth-talking and intelligent. His unmarked face suggested that he be carrying a notebook into Philosophy 101, not a pair of gloves into a ring. And his boxing style, which was scientifically simple—a good defense mixed with straight, sharp punching—was strictly the stuff of a college fighter.

A seasoned pug could send him back to the books in no time, right? Wrong. Soose was no egghead. He more than held his own with the toughest fighters in his division, winning 34 of his 41 bouts in a career that spanned less than four years. He was the uncrowned middleweight champion in 1940, after defeating Tony Zale, the NBA titlist, and Ken Overlin, the middleweight king of New York. And he won the world title the following year, after decisioning Overlin for a second time.

And Conn said college boys couldn't fight.

"I remember him saying that," Soose, now 76, said with enthusiasm from his sprawling woodland estate near the shores of Lake Wallenpaupack, Pennsylvania. "I proved him wrong, of course."

(Continued on page 65)

Soose rumbles with Zale in Chicago (below left). Tami Mauriello, unbeaten in his last 24 fights, eats Soose's jab during their 10-rounder in January 1941 (below). Soose won on points. In March 1941, Soose twice floored tough Ernie Vigh en route to a 12-round decision victory (bottom).

After Four Unfulfilling Years, Roy Jones Remains Convinced . . .

FATHER KNOWS BEST

By Robert Cassidy

The prevailing wisdom is that Roy Jones, the explosive junior middleweight who was robbed of a gold medal at the 1988 Olympics, should be a world champion by now. But the wisdom that prevails in the Jones household is anything but conventional.

Since being taken for a ride in Seoul, Jones has taken a circuitous and rather ho-hum route to title contention. In the fall of 1988, the most often heard analysis was "Roy Jones is what's happening." Now it's "Whatever happened to Roy Jones?"

What happened was Roy Jones Sr. The former middleweight journeyman assumed complete control of his son's career, which, of course, he has every right to do. But in doing so, he has stunted his son's progress. While less talented members of the 1988 Olympic team have basked in fame and fortune, Jones continues to toil in obscurity. For some reason, that's the way Big Roy and Little Roy want to keep it. Control is something that they're intent on maintaining.

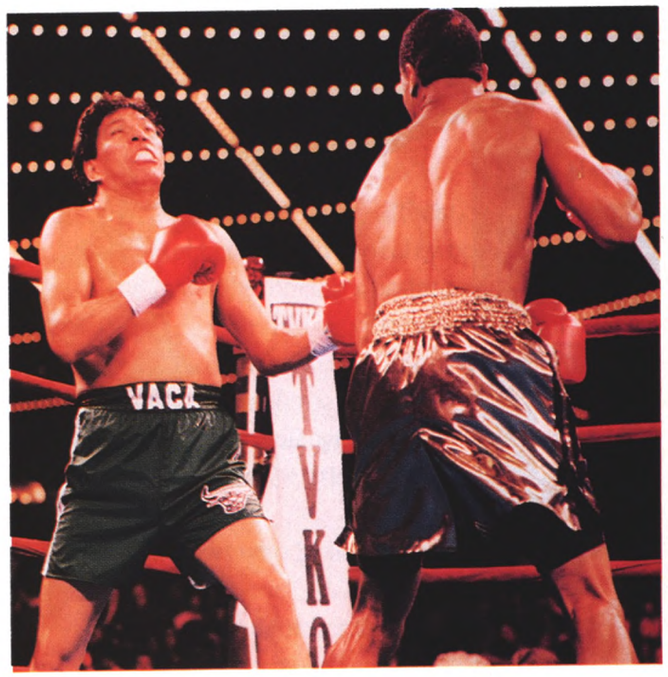
"We're not signing a contract with anybody," said Roy Sr. "We'll keep rolling the dice like we've been rolling it."

With the dice held firmly in the hand of his father, Jones has nearly crapped out. He could have signed with any of boxing's top managers or promoters and subsequently become a wealthy man. This is not to suggest that riches and glory do not await Jones; it is likely he'll eventually win a world title, and get paid handsomely for doing so. But because father and son are so aloof, most of the managers and promoters who have tried to keep up with the Joneses have become alienated. And that's not good business.

(Continued on page 59)

Photos By Al Bello

In January, Jones met his toughest opponent to date, former welterweight champion Jorge Vaca. The unbeaten Floridian overwhelmed his Mexican foe with superior hand speed (above), and landed a knockout of a left hook that made Vaca's eyes roll (below).



JAMES WARRING

IBF CRUISER KING

He Took 31 Years To Become A Fighter . . . And 24 Seconds To Become A Champion

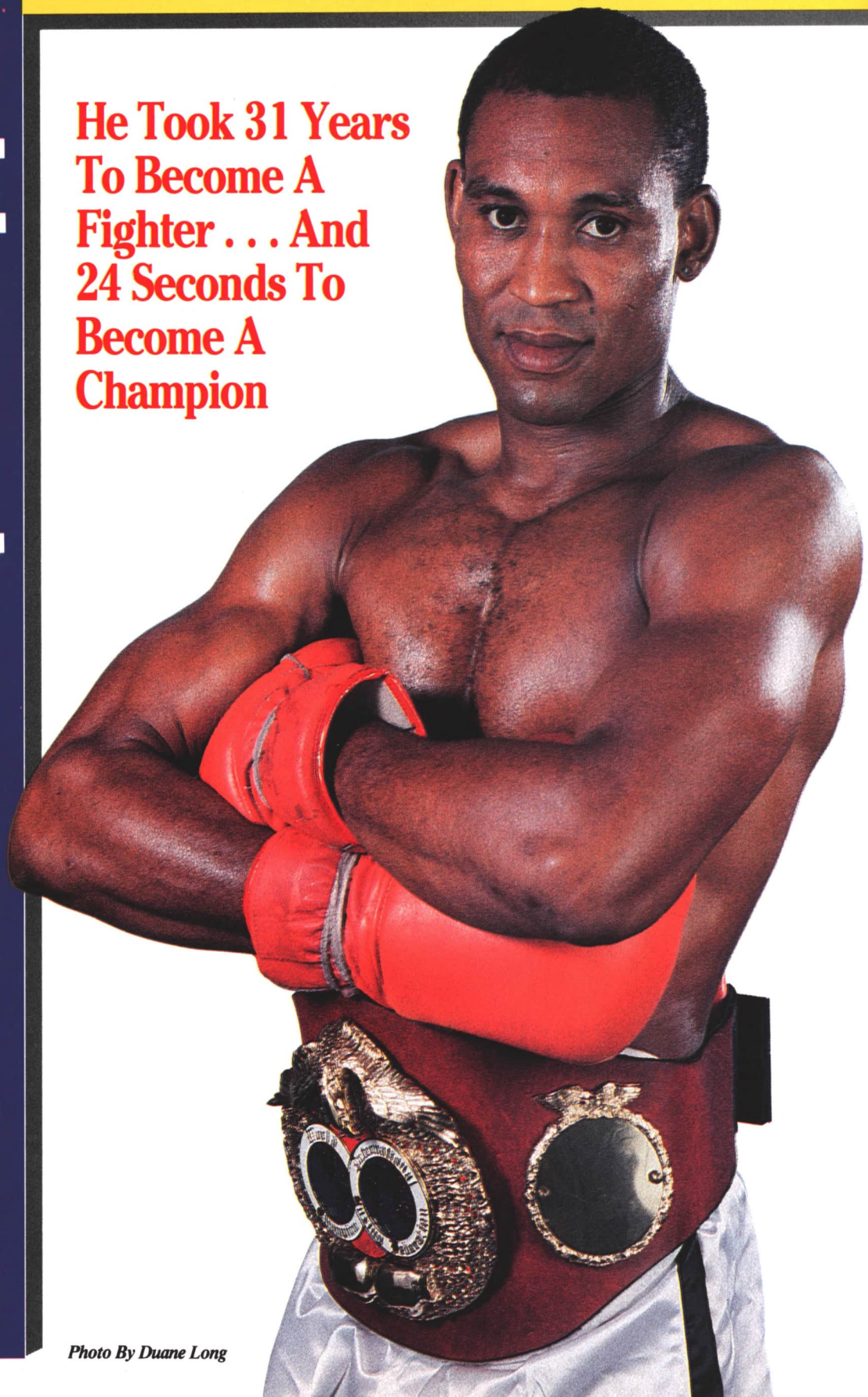
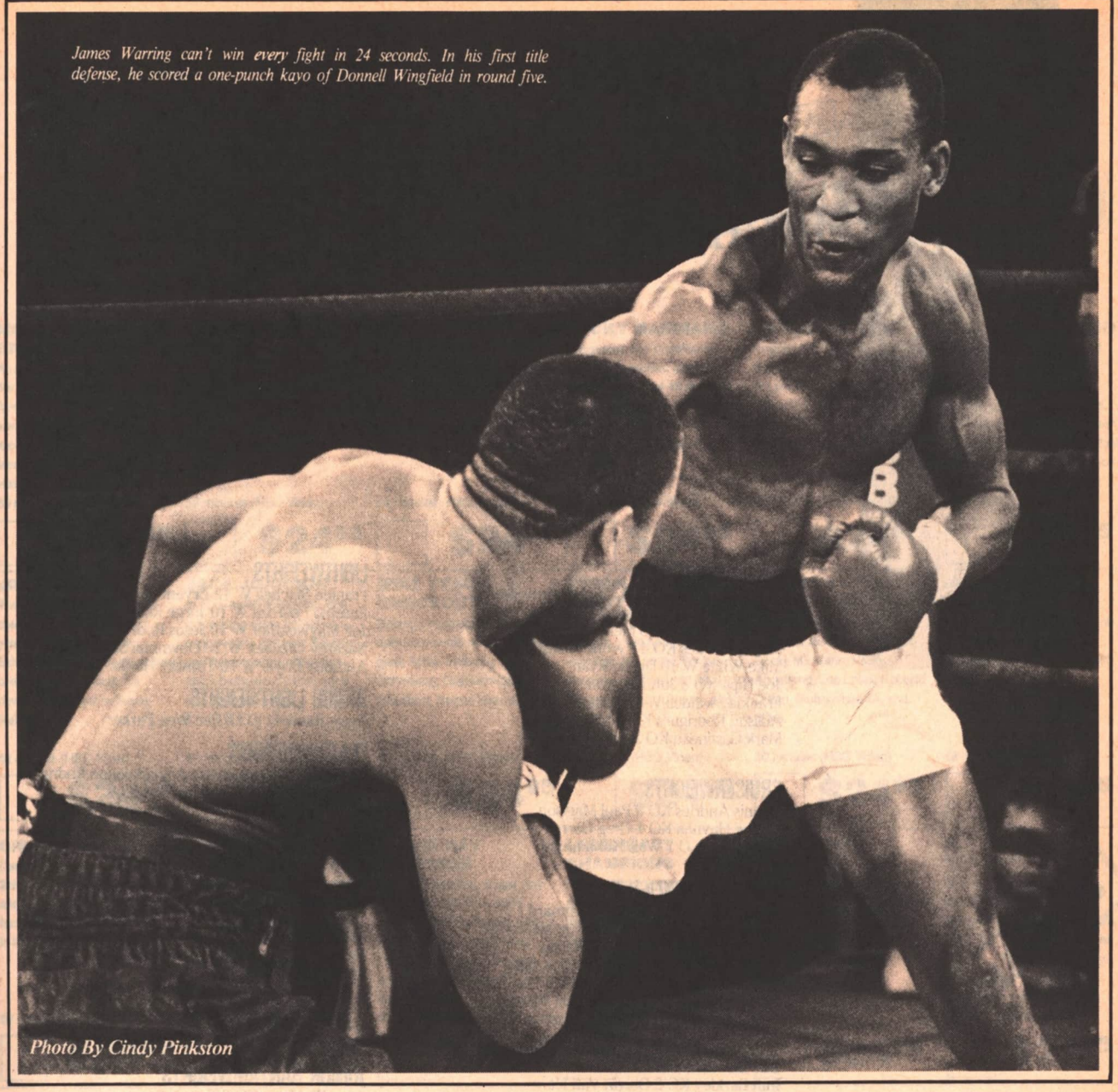


Photo By Duane Long



James Warring can't win every fight in 24 seconds. In his first title defense, he scored a one-punch kayo of Donnell Wingfield in round five.

Photo By Cindy Pinkston

By Joseph C. Tintle

It's too bad James Warring is the IBF *cruiserweight* champion. He's witty, offbeat, and more than a tad cocky. In fact, if he fought in almost any other weight class, he'd probably be regarded as one of the sport's most colorful characters. But at cruiserweight, boxing's bastard weight division, he's practically unknown. That doesn't bother Warring, though. His ego just won't allow it.

If most fighters have an overinflated opinion of themselves, Warring's is about to burst. After he stopped the very ordinary Donnell Wingfield in his first title defense in November, the champion spoke of what an honor it must have been for Wingfield to challenge him.

"Someday he can tell his grandchildren that he fought *me* for the title," Warring said in all seriousness.

Although almost no one outside of his hometown of Miami knows who he is, Warring doesn't mind proclaiming himself as the best fighter in the world.

"There's no question I am," he said. "I'm a boxing champion, and a former kickboxing champion.

(Continued on page 63)

Summary

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Bonecrusher Smith KO 1 Andre Crowder
Carl Williams KO 2 Marshall Tillman
Phillip Jackson KO 5 Melvin Epps
Michael Dokes KO 4 Tyrone Armstrong
Mike White W 10 Dickie Ryan
Joe Hipp KO 3 John Morton
Frankie Swindell W 10 Mike Faulkner
Adilson Rodrigues KO 5 Miguel Cea
Mark Gastineau KO 2 Jimmy Baker

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Dennis Andries KO 9 Paul Madison
Magne Havnaa KO 1 Greg Gorrell
Nate Miller KO 7 Wali Muhammad

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Frank Tate KO 11 Andrew Maynard
Leeonzer Barber W 12 Anthony Hembrick
Leeonzer Barber KO 3 Ron Martin
Anthony Hembrick KO 1 Joe McKnight
Booker T. Word KO 2 Sylvester White
Fabrice Tiozzo KO 2 Ronnie Lee Warrior
Drake Thadzi KO 4 Danny Chapman

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Iran Barkley KO 2 Darrin Van Horn
(Wins IBF Title)

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Reggie Johnson KO 2 Melvin Wynn
Roy Jones KO 1 Jorge Vaca
Steve Collins KO 3 Dan Morgan
Danny Garcia KO 2 Ulysses Boulware

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Gilbert Dele KO 1 Rocky Berg
Hitoshi Kamiyama KO 7 Hiroyuki Yoshino
Troy Waters KO 3 Chris Seng
Steven Martinez KO 4 Jose Luis Lopez

WELTERWEIGHTS
Jung Oh Park KO 2 Nilo Balaba
Buck Smith KO 2 Robert Wangila
Vincent Pettway W 10 Frank Montgomery

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Julio Cesar Chavez KO 8 Ignacio Perdomo
(Non-Title Fight)
Oba Carr KO 5 Erskine Wade
Viatcheslav Ianovski KO 2 Tatsunari Hisahiro
Jimmy Paul KO 1 Nino DeLeon
Fernando Sanchez KO 4 Ricky Meyers
Hector Lopez W 10 Jaime Castillo

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Frankie Mitchell W 12 Bryant Paden
Eusebio Pedroza W 10 Jorge Romero
Jeff Mayweather W 10 Jesus Rodriguez
Nazarov Olzubek W 10 Downmai Sithkodom
Anthony Boyle W 10 Tommy Hanks

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Jorge Ramirez KO 6 Pee Wee Parker

FEATHERWEIGHTS
November Ntshingila KO 4 Guadaloupe Rodriguez
Chan Yong Park KO 4 Edgar Padera
Angel Levy Mayor W 10 Kelvin Seabrooks

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
Jesus Salud KO 5 Pablo Valenzuela
Rudy Zavala KO 10 Tommy Valdez
Martin Ortegon KO 4 Pedro Davila

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Orlando Canizales KO 11 Ray Minus Jr.
(Retains IBF Title)
Victor Rabanales W 12 Pepillo Valdez
Yong Hoon Lee KO 2 Suk Ha Yoon
Eddie Cook KO 3 Lee Cargle
Bones Adams KO 1 Martin Llovera

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS
Sung Kil Moon KO 6 Torsak Pongsupa
(Retains WBC Title)
Khaosai Galaxy W 12 Armando Castro
(Retains WBA Title)
Thalerngsak Sithbaobay KO 3 Ricarte Cainiela
Elvis Alvarez KO 8 Manuel Ariza

FLYWEIGHTS
Scotty Olson KO 9 Pedro Feliciano
Jerry Penalosa KO 8 Raffy Montalban
Jerry Penalosa KO 4 Roger Vicera
Al Kotey KO 2 Antonio Gastelum

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Hiroki Ioka W 12 Myung Woo Yuh
(Wins WBA Title)
Melchor Cob Castro W 10 Santiago Mendez
Hideyuki Ohashi W 10 In Kyu Hwang

STRAWWEIGHTS
Ricardo Lopez W 12 Kyong Yon Lee
(Retains WBC Title)
Ala Villamor KO 3 Said Iskandar
Chana Porpaoin W 10 Armando Tenoria
Chana Porpaoin W 10 Jung Il Koh
Javier Varguez Tech. Dec. 10 Wilfredo Urbina
Manny Melchor W 10 Pretty Boy Lucas
Andy Tabanas KO 3 Nilo Anosa
Napa Kiatwanchai KO 7 Sugar Ray Mike
Yuichi Hosono KO 5 Chi Hun Park

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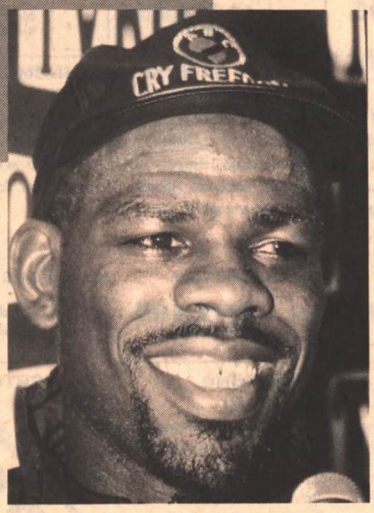


Iran Barkley happened to be hanging out at Top Rank's office in Las Vegas when a phone call came from New York. It was TVKO, and the pay-per-view network needed an opponent for IBF super middleweight champion Darrin Van Horn. Matchmaker Bruce Trampler looked up from his desk and saw Barkley.

"Can you make 168?" Trampler asked, aware that Barkley had been fighting at light heavyweight.

Barkley started a diet that instant. In January, he ate up Van Horn to take the title, suggesting that it's not who you know after all, but rather where you are.

Iran Barkley

Terry Norris W 12 Jorge Castro,

Paris, France—After being pounded for 12 rounds with every conceivable punch, and from every conceivable angle, Castro, 24, gave no indication that he would bid farewell to boxing. From the perspective of WBC super welterweight champion Norris, that makes the Argentine special.

Scoring a one-sided unanimous decision at the Omni Palais de Sport, Norris successfully defended the crown for the fourth time in 1991. After two of his previous three victories, his victims, Sugar Ray Leonard and Donald Curry, announced their retirements.

Chuck Giampa (United States) scored 117-111; Franz Marti (Switzerland) scored 118-109; Alfred Assaro (France) scored 120-110. The referee was Joe Cortez.

"He stayed in there," Norris said of the number-one contender. "He was a tough opponent. I'd give him an A-plus."

A thick-muscled hooker who averages more than a fight per month (this was his 16th fight in 1991), Castro, 151¾, 68-3-2 (49), stubbornly insisted on a one-dimensional plan: Three or four times per round, he'd attack with dangerous powerpunch flurries. After Norris would avoid them, the challenger would retreat to the ropes, where he covered up and absorbed hundreds of blows.

Brilliant both offensively and defensively, Norris, 151, Campo, California, 30-3 (16), jabbed strongly, picked his shots intelligently, and scored with an unusually high percentage of his blows. By the final bell, Castro was exhausted, badly battered, and bloodied.

Afterward, Norris spoke of rising to middleweight. The 154-pound class can no longer provide adequate competition, and unless he jumps to 160, or a big-name welterweight moves up to his class, the Californian won't be able to live up to his reputation as the fighter who retires champions.

(12-13-91)

Victor Cordoba KO 11 Vincenzo Nardiello,

Paris, France—On the Norris-Castro undercard, WBA super middleweight champion Cordoba, 168, Belfast, N. Ireland, via Panama, 21-3-1 (17), retained the crown for the first time. His opponent, Italy's rugged Nardiello, seemed to be the victim of a quick stoppage, with veteran South African referee Stanley Christodoulou calling a halt immediately after an 11th-round knockdown.

Cordoba-Nardiello was a rarity: a battle of two southpaws. The 6'1" champion established command in the second round, when he floored Nardiello with a straight left. The Italian rose at Christodoulou's count of seven, and began to display more respect.

But by round six, Nardiello, 165, Rome, 17-1 (10), was ignoring Cordoba's jab and applying steady pressure. The Panamanian sought one big left, but it was the challenger's cross that landed time and again.

As it turned out, the difference was Cordoba's ability to hurt Nardiello. Early in the 11th, the champion struck again with his left, and Nardiello staggered before clinching. Seconds later, another left dropped him, and Christodoulou waved the bout over without as much as glancing at the fallen fighter. Nardiello rose and bitterly complained, but to no avail.

(12-13-91)

Sung Kil Moon KO 6 Torsak Pongsupa,

Inchon, South Korea—In the main event of a dual world title card, WBC super flyweight champion Moon, 115, retained the crown for the fifth time, by stoppage, at the 1:48 mark of round six.

Moon (left) eclipsed Pongsupa

Defending at the Inchon Indoor Gymnasium, Moon, 16-1 (13), proved too strong and durable for Pongsupa, 114, Thailand, 14-2 (10). The challenger, a southpaw, was a dangerous puncher with either hand, however, and it was a terrific give-and-take affair throughout.

Moon started quickly, dropping the Thai in round one with a smashing right. The champion maintained the pressure in the second, backing Pongsupa to the ropes. But in the third, the challenger rebounded with energy and connected with several powerpunches. Moon answered with his signature left hook, and the round was about even.

Moon switched his attack to the midsection in the fourth, and by the fifth, Pongsupa showed no movement. In the sixth, Moon scored with a double right uppercut to the chin, and Pongsupa appeared ready to quit. But he fought on, at least until Moon landed a *triple* uppercut. At that point, the Thai knelt down and took referee Jose Medina's mandatory count. After Moon swarmed with several additional shots, Medina stepped in.

At the time of the stoppage, Moon was ahead on all three cards. Ringsiders agreed that this was among the finest performances of his career.

(12-22-91)

Joe Koizumi

Ricardo Lopez W 12 Kyung Yun Lee,

Inchon, South Korea—On the Moon-Pongsupa undercard, WBC strawweight champion Lopez, 103½, took five rounds to warm up—it was frighteningly cold at the Inchon Indoor Gymnasium—and then easily outboxed local favorite and number-one contender Lee, 105. Though the decision was unanimous, it was not one of the vastly talented Mexican's better showings.

Scores: Dalby Shirley (United States), 120-107; Nicolas Hidalgo (Venezuela), 116-112; Anek Hongtongkam (Thailand), 118-110. *The Ring* scored a shutout for Lopez.

For the first five rounds, Lopez, 28-0 (21), was content to circle and fire the occasional one-two. Worse yet, whenever Lee punched, he was too slow to catch the champion. Lopez began to fire in combination in the sixth, but in the seventh, he suffered a cut on his left eyelid after an unintentional butt. The wound convinced Lopez to box carefully, and he didn't accelerate until the ninth. In the 12th, the Mexican finally opened up, and had it not been for referee Malcolm Bulner twice stopping the action because of loose tape on Lopez' gloves, the 24-year-old champion would likely have registered a last-round stoppage.

Lee, the IBF's first 105-pound champion, dropped to 20-2 (9).

(12-22-91)

Joe Koizumi

Lopez was sluggish against Lee

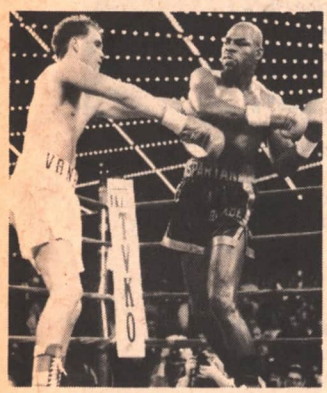
Iran Barkley KO 2 Darrin Van Horn,

New York—Big-time boxing returned to New York City for the first time in almost a year, and a homeboy electrified the night with a smashing kayo. In a mild upset, former middleweight champion Barkley, 168, the Bronx, New York, 28-7 (17), scored three second-round knockdowns to stop defending IBF super middleweight titlist "Schoolboy" Van Horn, 167, Lexington, Kentucky, 47-3 (27).

The title fight, televised by TVKO, was held before 3,063 fans at the sparkling Para-

mount (formerly the Felt Forum). Madison Square Garden Boxing plans to run one show per month in the 5,000-seat arena.

In the week preceding the fight, Barkley-Van Horn was criticized because the challenger has limited vision in his surgically repaired left eye. But he had no trouble zeroing in on Van Horn. Barkley entered the ring with adrenaline racing, and Van Horn accommodated him by trading from the start. (Had Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, Barkley's trainer, not restrained his charge, the fighters might have brawled *before* the opening bell.)



Barkley vanquishes Van Horn

Barkley's first serious hook wobbled the champion, and by the end of round one, Van Horn was holding. Early in the second, he offered some lateral movement, but Barkley continued to swarm, and a hook produced knockdown number one. Van Horn rose at referee Arthur Mercante Jr.'s count of six, but lacked balance. The second knockdown came without a clean punch being landed, and the third after another hook. At that point, Mercante waved the fight over without issuing a count.

The fight was reminiscent of Barkley's August 1990 first-round loss to Nigel Benn, only "The Blade" assumed the role of Benn, and Van Horn played Barkley.

The judges were Barbara Perez, Nick Cimino, and John Stewart.

An hour before the fight, G.L. Van Horn, the champion's father and trainer, expressed concern that his son wasn't feeling well. Afterward, Darrin Van Horn said he was suffering from a cold, and that he had spent part of the previous night in the hospital because of a sore right hand. Otherwise, the loser had no excuses.

"I don't think I'd let this guy beat me even if I was drunk," said Barkley.

The newly crowned champion is hoping for a big-money rematch with WBA light heavyweight champion Thomas Hearns. In June 1988, Barkley shocked the "Hit Man" by scoring a third-round kayo. And in January, he proved that he still has an upset or two left to offer.

(1-10-92)

Steve Farhood

Khaosai Galaxy W 12 Armando Castro,

Bangkok, Thailand—No one thought the record reign of WBA junior bantamweight champion Galaxy would end with the Thai southpaw jabbing and moving away, but in one of his toughest defenses, Galaxy proved resourceful.

After scoring a unanimous decision over Mexico's "Monstruo" Castro, Galaxy, 32, announced his retirement. Boxing's longest-reigning champion—he won the 115-pound crown in November 1984—set a division record by making 19 successful defenses.

Galaxy jabbed strongly in round one, but in the second, Castro scored a knockdown with a left hook and followup right uppercut. Galaxy was saved by the bell. He seemed fully recovered, however, by the third, and won four consecutive rounds.

In the eighth, Castro, 34-12-2 (30), accelerated, and Galaxy was forced to absorb considerable punishment. But by the round's end, the challenger had punched himself out. Galaxy, 49-1 (43), began to box in the 10th, and in the 11th, he scored a payback knockdown, felling the flatfooted Mexican with a three-punch combination. In the 12th, Galaxy cruised, and Castro wasn't quick enough to catch up to him.

Scoring: Gustavo Padilla (Panama), 117-111; Sylvestre Abainza (Philippines), 117-109; Hi Han Chŭn (South Korea), 117-109.

Galaxy's exit is well-timed; he has nothing left to prove, and long ago established himself as the best fighter in the division's brief history.

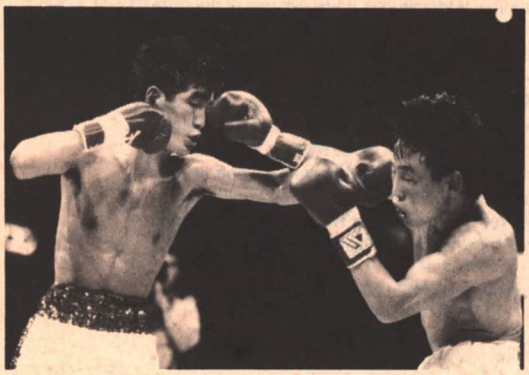
(12-22-91)

Joe Koizumi

Hiroki Ioka W 12 Myung Woo Yuh,

Osaka, Japan—Perhaps leaving home wasn't such a good idea after all.

Fighting for the first time outside of his native Korea, Yuh defended the WBA junior flyweight title for the 19th time and was outpointed by Japan's Ioka at the Osaka Prefectual Gymnasium. Scoring: Phil Newman and Harold Lederman, 117-112 and 115-113, respectively, Ioka, and Oscar Perez, 115-113, Yuh. All three judges were from the United States. Referee: Venezuela's Enzo Montero.



Ioka (left) ends the reign of Yuh

The 22-year-old Ioka, 108, 19-2-1 (9), is a former WBC strawweight champion. At 5'7½", and with a 68-inch reach, he boxed over the first half of the bout, building a lead he never relinquished. Yuh, 108, 36-1 (14), reportedly experienced severe difficulty making weight, and despite a late-rounds rally, appeared sluggish throughout.

Yuh seemed overconfident over the first four rounds, which were won by the stick-and-move challenger. A pair of rights earned the champion round five, but he didn't accelerate until the seventh, when he began firing in combination. Ioka faded, but rebounded in the thrilling 11th. Yuh was swarming when the Japanese responded with a right. His followup blows staggered Yuh, who barely survived. Yuh carried the 12th, but only a knockout would have saved the title.

Having registered 18 successful defenses, Yuh, 27, holds the division record. He won the crown in December 1985, outpointing California's Joey Olivo over 15 rounds. At this point, a rise to flyweight would seem likely.

(12-17-91)

Joe Koizumi ■

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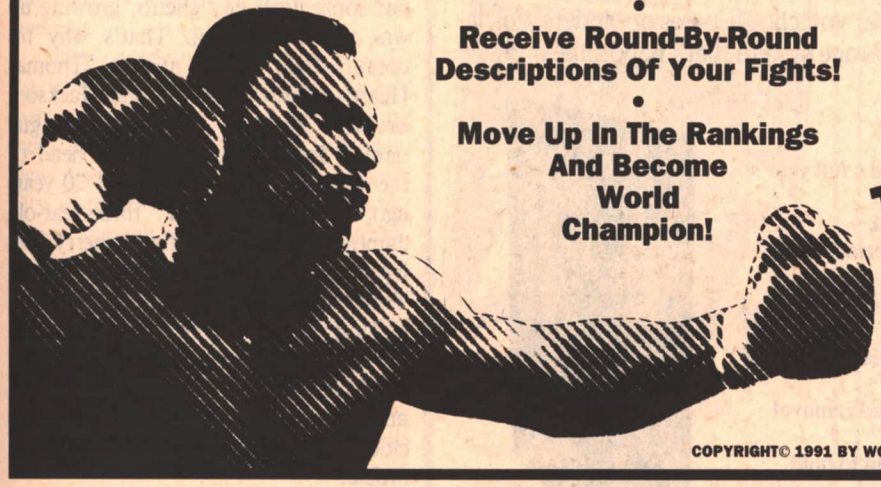

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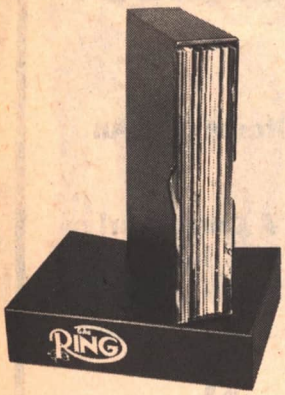

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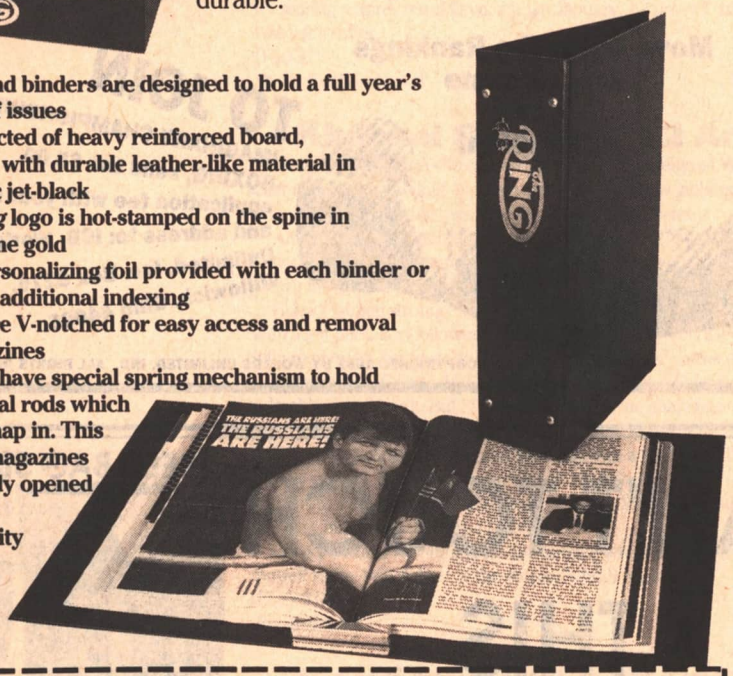

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SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

James Toney

(Continued from page 39)

Chwasky, Toney barked, "Hey Mr. Hotshot Lawyer, kiss my ass. I f___ you up, you blind bastard!" With that, Toney charged toward Chwasky, twice having to be tackled and restrained.

Toney can't explain exactly why he is one giant exposed nerve, but a lot of it can be traced to his upbringing. Though he was raised in the college town of Ann Arbor, Michigan, and not some inner-city ghetto, growing up was no less painful. That's why his dream fight isn't against Thomas Hearns, Terry Norris, Julian Jackson, or Iran Barkley, but against a guy named James Toney Sr. The head of the Toney household took off 20 years ago, leaving behind three-year-old James Jr. and his mother, Sherry. Being raised without a male influence, Toney became increasingly bitter.

Time hasn't healed the wounds, just left him more time to seethe. He hasn't seen his father since the day he left, and that isn't likely to change if the elder Toney reads this particular article.

"A lot of hostility," Toney says. "I can't wait to beat his ass real bad."

"James can't handle disrespect or things he sees as an injustice," Kallen says. "He's usually right, but he expresses his point more violently than anyone else."

Toney may have been one parent short growing up, but he gained a second mom when he reached adulthood. The champion and the 45-year-old Kallen, a former publicist for Thomas Hearns, are incredibly close. Toney lives with Kallen and her family during training. She cooks for him, they play cards, go to the movies, go out to dinner, and watch endless hours of fight tapes. Toney is constantly filling Kallen's gas tank to make sure she doesn't run out, zipping her purse and tucking it under her coat when she forgets to close it, and escorting her out to her car, even in broad daylight. As a tribute to Kallen, who is Jewish, Toney wears a Star of David on his trunks.

But even Kallen isn't insulated from the fighter's wrath, a fact that convinced her more than anything else of how uncontrollable Toney's moods can be. One day in the gym, James had a chip the size of a cinder block balanc-

ing on his shoulder, and the tension was hanging in the air like a cloud of ash over a volcano. Kallen approached her fighter to calm him down with a little feminine charm.

"It was the first time he turned it on me," she recalls. "In front of everybody he said, 'Get the eff out of my face!' It shocked me. I left the gym and didn't come back for days."

It would be easy to dismiss Toney as another example of why boxing can't attract advertisers or endear itself to the mainstream. But to simply label him a time bomb is to explore just one side of a complex personality that keeps all those around him constantly guessing.

Toney spends countless hours working with handicapped children, buying them puppies or toys, and visiting them in hospitals. While in Secaucus, New Jersey, to train for his Atlantic City showdown with McCallum, Toney got the idea to spend Thanksgiving at a Salvation Army shelter in Manhattan, passing out food for the homeless. Often he'd walk around the streets of the city, handing out a $20 bill to anyone who looked like he could have used one. When one pathetic-looking creature ordered him to take his bill and beat it, Toney was as hurt as Kallen has ever seen him.

Marvel at Toney's attitude or be contemptuous of it, but in either case, you're not likely to turn away whenever you see him fighting. And that should be quite often. In his celebrated year of '91, he waged war six times, including the upset of Nunn, and title defenses against Reggie Johnson (the IBF's number-one contender), Francesco Dell'Aquila (in Monte Carlo; Toney's first bout on foreign soil), and McCallum (a two-division titlist with a record of 42-1). The break-nose pace will continue in '92.

There are two reasons for the workaholic schedule. The first is obvious.

"He's got that side of him that likes violence," says Kallen. "If you don't keep him in the gym, who knows what would happen in the street."

The second reason has to do with creating an attraction in an era when boxing is starved for stars, and attempting to establish Toney's worth. In Toney's sport, judging that worth is a subjective exercise.

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(Continued on page 56)

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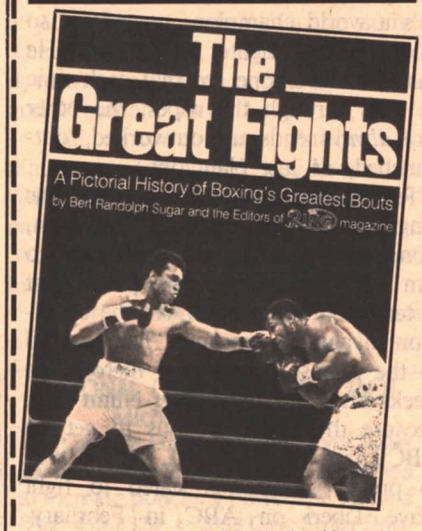

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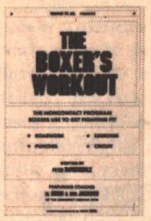

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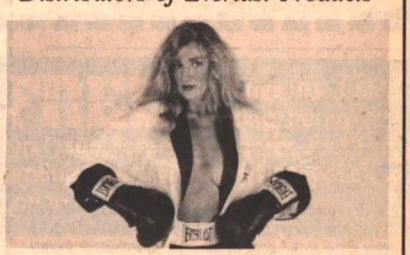

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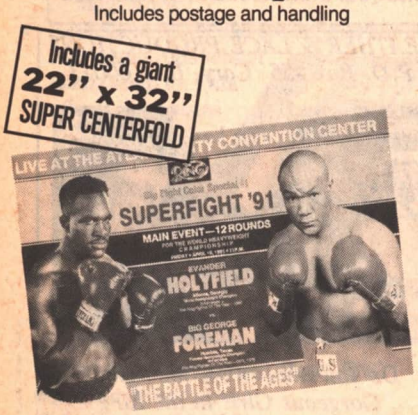

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James Toney

(Continued from page 55)

firm arrival as the real thing. The boxer's goals aren't as concrete. The athlete who gets measured for everything from fist size to ankle size has no measuring stick for his success. Even if he's a world champion, nowadays, so what? Today's fighter has to *fight*. He has to let everyone see that each time he goes through the ropes, the other guy *always* ends up outworked, outpunched, or just plain out.

Recognizing that there is only one long, meticulous road to stardom, Toney and Kallen have opted not to aim for one quickie megapurse, but instead take fights that give the champion invaluable exposure. They agreed to the Johnson defense a mere seven weeks after the demanding Nunn fight because they were anxious to get on ABC's last telecast of '91. As we went to press, Toney was slated to fight Dave Tiberi on ABC in February. Most fighters wouldn't follow the $500,000 payday from a McCallum fight with a $100,000 network TV bout, but Toney is anxious to deliver a message.

"Other fighters just talk smack," he says. "I'm *real*. I *do* fight everyone. I fight all the time. And I promise I'll keep doing that. Anyone who's in the ring with me gets knocked out. If not, I'll make 'em suffer real bad."

For all the talk of destruction, it is ironic that the fight that has thus far been Toney's defining moment, the masterful outboxing of McCallum, was an exercise in coolness and control.

And surprise, surprise. Toney isn't even mad about that.

"I had no respect for McCallum because he said he was gonna take me to school," Toney points out. "And he had a Jamaican posse at the weigh-in talking trash. I was happy I outboxed him. *Very* happy. Before that, people were saying, 'Toney's just a slugger.' They found out what I can do."

And in the months ahead, they're going to find out what he's all about. Kallen is looking to soften the Toney image, to rein him in a bit and avoid incidents like the one that followed the McCallum bout. But she makes sure to emphasize, "I wouldn't want to soften him all around. That might hurt his boxing."

Though she, too, is occasionally forced to duck for cover, Kallen recognizes that her champion is at his best—that's Fighter-of-the-Year best—when fighting injustices, whether real or imagined. Some people look at the world through rose-colored glasses. James Toney peers at it through eyes bloodshot with rage.

He doesn't see any difference. ■

Yuh & Galaxy

(Continued from page 23)

fight between them a tossup."

"I'd rate Yuh higher than Chang, but only because of longevity," said referee and judge Steve Smoger, who worked the title fights of both champions. "Chang was destroyed by personal problems. When he was at the top of his game, I'd rate them about even."

"Yuh is a much better fighter now than when he first won the title," said Harold Lederman, who worked as a judge for the Korean's first defense, as well as his last. "He's more confident. He was a little more of a stylist than Chang. But I liked Gushiken best. He had good size, a good jab, and a good punch."

It can be argued that Chang, who defended against future dominant flyweight champion Sot Chitalada and seven other world titlists, faced the toughest competition. Gushiken fought five world champions, and Yuh four. Interestingly, Yuh's first fight outside of his native South Korea was the loss to Ioka. But that can't be held against him because few 108-pound champions have been road warriors. Estaba and Chang defended away from their homelands only once each, and Gushiken *never* defended outside of Japan.

Yuh is 28, and has no plans to retire. At least partly because he was coming off an eight-month layoff (the longest of his reign), he struggled to make weight for the Ioka fight. Unless he can quickly secure a rematch (which will mean a return trip to Japan), look for him to rise to flyweight.

Regardless of his future accomplishments, Yuh must be rated with the best two or three 108-pounders in history. Perhaps Gushiken and Chang were as good, but no one was better.

***

As for Galaxy (real name Sura Saenkham), the Thai terror made a division-record 19 successful defenses before keeping his promise to retire.

The southpaw suffered his only career loss in July 1981, a decision to Thai 118-pound champion Sakda Saksuree. Five weeks later, he kayoed Saksuree and then went more than 10 years without a defeat. Unlike most lighter-weight fighters, he dropped down a division, from bantamweight to junior bantamweight, to fight for a world title.

Physically, Galaxy was freakish. At 5'4", he was of average height for a junior bantamweight, but his upper body was huge, and he was stronger than most full-fledged bantams. He was able to make weight for so many years because he ate one meal a day, lived at his manager's fight camp, and relaxed no more than two weeks after fights.

What made Galaxy's reign so fascinating was his frightful left-handed power and his ability to rise from the canvas to score kayos. He stopped 16 of his 19 challengers, outbrawling them despite a chin that was hardly world class. Galaxy suffered knockdowns in five fights, four of them title defenses.

"Galaxy was the original killer," said Steve Bass, who, as executive producer and host of the TV series *Cavalcade Of Boxing*, regularly features lighter-weight fighters. "When he caught you, it was over. Period."

"Given his power, and under the right circumstances," said Smoger, who worked three of Galaxy's title fights, "he could've won the bantamweight title. Greg Richardson was a champion at bantamweight. Galaxy would've trapped him in a corner and destroyed him."

Aside from Galaxy, the junior bantamweight class has produced three special champions.

● Venezuela's Rafael Orono was the division's first titlist. Unusually tall at 5'8", he twice held the WBC crown and made a total of six successful defenses. In his final try for the title, was kayoed by Galaxy in July 1985.

● Japan's Jiro Watanabe was a southpaw boxer/puncher who won the WBA title in 1982, and was then stripped after winning the WBC title in 1984. He made a total of 10 successful defenses.

● Gilberto Roman dethroned Watanabe in 1986 and twice held the WBC title. He made a total of 11 successful defenses. In June 1990, the Mexican was killed at age 28 in a car accident.

While it is difficult to unconditionally rate Yuh as the best of his division, Galaxy clearly stands out at 115 pounds because of the length of his reign. Watanabe was extremely tough and well-conditioned, and his left-handed style troubled most of his foes. But he wasn't particularly fast, and he could be outboxed. Roman was a brilliant counterpuncher and undoubtedly the most talented 115-pounder of all. His chin, however, was weak, and he cut easily. Moreover, he lacked discipline outside the ring.

"Galaxy was a pure banger, Roman a pure boxer, and Watanabe somewhere in between," said Yalen. "I'd have to rate Galaxy one, Roman two, and Watanabe three."

"Galaxy was a vicious puncher with a humming left hand," said Lederman. "He wasn't great with his right—he'd paw with it. But he would've knocked out Roman. Roman was too easy to hit, and Galaxy hit too hard."

"I'd rate Galaxy one, Roman two,

(Continued on page 59)

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Yuh & Galaxy

(Continued from page 57)

and Watanabe three," said Bass. "Roman fought like his idol, Miguel Canto, but not quite as well. Watanabe was tall, but had the classic southpaw weakness: no jab. I also think he was somewhat protected as a champion."

In quality of competition, Watanabe, Roman, and Galaxy rate about even. Galaxy and Watanabe each defeated six world champions, and Roman five. Roman, however, defended mostly on the road, while Watanabe strayed from Japan only once, and Galaxy from Thailand five times.

At the time of his retirement, Galaxy was rated in most pound-for-pound top 10s. That is almost as remarkable an accomplishment as making 19 successful defenses, because even most boxing insiders have never seen him fight. Too bad; they missed the best 115-pounder ever, and one of the purest kayo punchers of his time.

***

Yuh's loss and Galaxy's retirement ended not only today's longest active title reigns, but also chapters that will be cherished in the boxing histories of their respective homelands. Joe Koizumi, *The Ring's* correspondent in Asia, rates Yuh as the best South Korean fighter of all, ahead of fellow junior flyweight king Chang and such noteworthy world champions as Soo Hwan Hong (bantamweight and junior featherweight), Chan Hee Park (flyweight), and Chong Pal Park (super middleweight). He also rates Galaxy as the best of the Thais, ahead of the dominant Saensak Muangsurin (junior welterweight) and a quartet of flyweight champions, Pone Kingpetch, Chartchai Chionoi, Sot Chitalada, and Venice Borkorsor.

The only two negatives: Neither Yuh nor Galaxy held unified titles. And neither won world crowns in more than one division. (Neither ever tried; should Yuh rise to flyweight, he will undoubtedly receive the opportunity.) The record books inform us, however, that such inflexibility shouldn't affect their places among the legends of the lighter weight classes. Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, and Carlos Zarate won titles only at 118 pounds, and likewise Jimmy Wilde, Pascual Perez, and Miguel Canto at 112 pounds.

In time, Yuh and Galaxy just might become legends, too. ■

Roy Jones

(Continued from page 45)

"Somebody has to promote his fights," said Kathy Duva, promoter Dan Duva's wife and a publicist for Main Events. "There's no doubt he needs someone behind him. A guy like Roy Jones has so much potential, and he's simply not gone anywhere. If a career is handled properly, avenues begin to open miraculously."

With Roy Sr. serving as a roadblock, nearly all avenues to Roy Jr. have been closed. Sugar Ray Leonard, Emanuel Steward, Butch Lewis, and many others have had hefty contract offers vetoed.

"The decision to go this route is strictly Roy's," said the father. "We talk. But I'm not fighting, *he's* the one doing the fighting."

When Jones turned pro, he and his father briefly hired adviser Harold Smith, who had spent five years in prison for his role in embezzling $21-million from Wells Fargo Bank. For the past couple of years, that role has been filled by attorney Fred Levin.

"They know where we are, and they know we are interested," said Duva. "I know we had discussions about a promotional contract. I'm sure Dan's still interested. Anyone who is familiar with us can see we can give him what he needs."

Roy Sr. would debate that point, but if he doesn't sign with a major promoter, he runs the risk of shutting his son out. After all, Duva, Don King, and Bob Arum are much more likely to make fights for their own fighters.

In January, he made his New York debut at Madison Square Garden's Paramount Theater in a scheduled 10-rounder against former WBC welterweight champion Jorge Vaca. The bout was televised on pay-per-view by TVKO, and Jones, 16-0 (16), didn't waste the opportunity to impress. He knocked out Vaca, 44-9-1 (36), with a single hook at 1:45 of the first round.

Vaca, who was particularly physical in retiring Mark Breland by sixth-round TKO in September, attempted to execute the same bully tactics on Jones. Normally a slow starter, the Mexican's deviance in style was what kept the fight brief.

"Once he came at me," said Jones, "I knew it was going to be easy. He was saying to me, 'Let's make this short.' "

Vaca crowded the Olympian and backed him to the ropes with several overhand rights. Showing the aplomb of a 10-year veteran, Jones easily slid away. Vaca then

(Continued on page 60)

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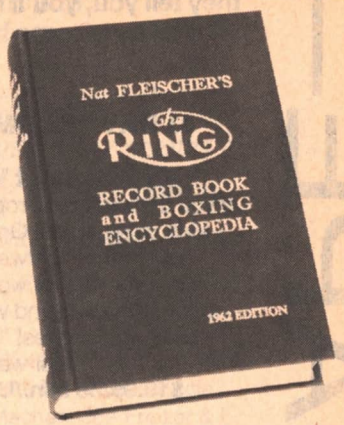

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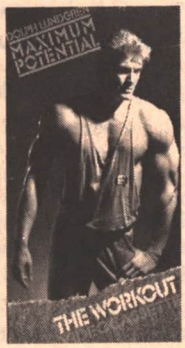

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Roy Jones

(Continued from page 59)

forced Jones to the ropes again and landed a right uppercut.

"The only thing he did," said Jones, "was hit me with a shot that made me say, 'Well, it's time to turn up the heat.' "

Jones responded with a flurry and quickly had Vaca with *his* back to the ropes. He rattled the former champion with a wicked left hook-right hand combination. Vaca desperately tried to counter with a left jab, but before he could Jones zapped him with another hook. End of fight.

"I'd like to use him again as soon as we can," said TVKO's Bernie Dillon. "His power was unexpected. I've always known he had the speed, but the power he used to knock out Vaca was unbelievable."

In the ring, the 23-year-old Jones is a marvel to watch. He is poised, quick, and strong. It is probable that he'll win a world title in either the middleweight or junior middleweight divisions. Or both. Out of the ring, however, Jones is far from charming. He can be arrogant, and his personality is a lot closer to sullen than smilin'.

After the Vaca fight, a handful of reporters tried to pick Jones' brain for answers to his puzzling career. His responses came like his punches—short, quick, and to the point.

When asked if the Vaca fight would initiate a campaign to fight more quality opponents, he answered, "I'll fight whoever they bring me."

He was then asked if Vaca represented a higher caliber opponent than he's faced thus far. He seemed bored and almost annoyed.

"Sometimes, what I call high caliber, [promoters] don't call high caliber," he said.

Another reporter asked what Jones had called Vaca. He then managed a brief smile and said, "Knocked out."

The course of the interview didn't change. Jones stood in the Paramount lobby with his hands on his hips and a gold robe draped over his shoulders. He answered each question succinctly.

"What weight will you pursue a world title at, middleweight or junior middleweight?"

"Either."

"Are you pleased with the way your career has progressed so far?"

"Definitely."

The answers, though, are not that sim-

(Continued on page 62)

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Photo from 1971. Pictured from left to right, Eddie Machen, Joe Fraizer & E. Michael Huyck - author.

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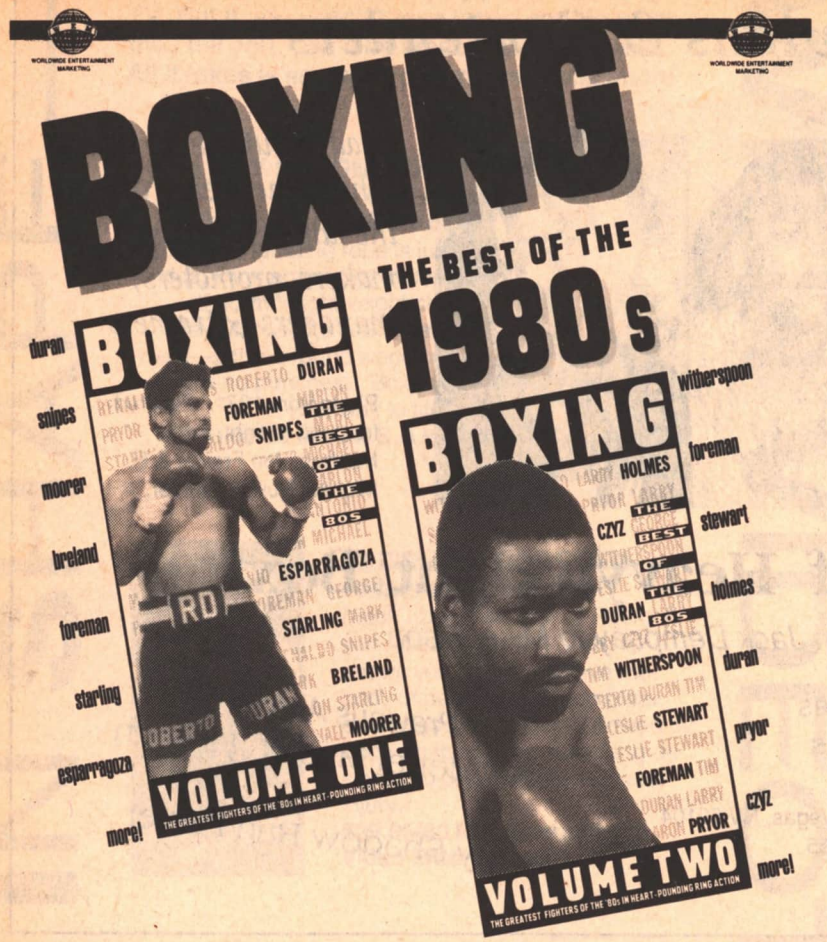

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Roy Jones

(Continued from page 60)

ple. At first, it seemed Jones' rise to the top would be meteoric. In his second and third pro bouts, both scheduled eight-rounders that were televised by NBC, he stopped Stephan Johnson and Ron Amundsen. Jones is the only fighter to have stopped Johnson and Amundsen. In fact, after losing to Jones, Amundsen went the distance in losses to James Toney and Vinny Pazienza, and won the USBA title.

After those victories, Jones vanished. His quality of opposition steadily declined, and his TV exposure dropped with it. In 1990, he gained unwelcomed publicity when he knocked out an impostor posing as Texas clubfighter Derwin Richards. And early in 1991, Jones knocked out a faded Ricky Stackhouse in one round on the USA Network. At the time, Stackhouse was under suspension by the New York State Athletic Commission.

"We had Roy on a total of 15 rounds and he didn't even lose one," said NBC boxing coordinator Kevin Monaghan. "It got to be a joke. [His management] was just so incredibly cautious."

Some boxing fathers are too cautious. Others are braver than their sons. Both can be a detriment. If the careers of Howard Davis Jr. and Marvis Frazier have taught us anything, it is that fathers are usually better off sitting ringside than in their sons' corners.

"Sometimes I have more butterflies than him," admitted Roy Sr., who is leery but amicable. "We realize the jeopardy in this sport."

Perhaps the Joneses should be applauded for their patience and discipline. Roy Sr. is attempting to uphold solid family values while trudging through the unscrupulous world of pro boxing. Dillon, who, during his employment at Trump Plaza, helped coordinate Jones' first network fight, recognizes that and understands Roy Sr.'s apprehension.

"I've never really had a problem with them," he said. "His father is trying to balance a boxing career with a college education. [Jones is enrolled at Pensacola Junior College.] I wouldn't say he's difficult, he's just a little cautious. But, obviously, Roy's boxing skills haven't suffered."

It is apparent from Jones' performances that he is ready to face the top junior middleweights and middleweights in the world. But that may not be entirely why Roy Sr. is hesitant about accelerating his son's career. He said he is very pleased

with Roy Jr. "as a human being," and is particularly proud that his son is attending college. While overmatching his son is a major concern, Roy Sr. is just as concerned about the trappings that accompany success. For the moment, he has denied his son instant gratification, even it has resulted in Jones lagging far behind his Olympic teammates.

"Perhaps, at the time, they were ready for that level," said Roy Sr., who was knocked out by Marvin Hagler in 1977. "I wish Andrew Maynard and Riddick Bowe the best. I'm happy for all of them. I've known them all since they were boys. But Roy was raised on a farm. He wasn't exposed to a lot of things a city kid was exposed to. He wasn't ready for that. He needed to mature a little mentally."

One only needs to witness Mike Tyson to understand what happens to a young champion whose mind has not grown as quickly as his body. It's often been said that a trainer or manager assumes the role of a father to his fighter. The Joneses have eliminated such a need.

"Ours is not a forced situation," said Roy Sr. "I can't live my son's life. I'm not even contracted to him. Perhaps for others, it didn't work. I don't have to become a father, *I am* his father."

For all the good and bad that brings. ■

James Warring

(Continued from page 47)

And now, I'm looking to fight Thomas Hearns someday and get a big purse."

There has been talk about WBA light heavyweight champion Hearns and Warring squaring off at cruiserweight. Not that anyone sees it as a particularly exciting matchup, but Hearns wants to pursue a fifth world title belt. After he fights WBA cruiserweight king Bobby Czyz or IBF super middleweight champion Iran Barkley, the "Hit Man" just might face Warring. Hearns, however, has already once priced himself out of such a matchup because he wanted $1.5-million. But if you think his demand was unrealistic, consider Warring's. The 34-year-old fighter, who has fought only 14 nondescript opponents in seven years, wanted parity with one of the sport's all-time greats.

"Why not?" said Warring, who is 13-1 (9). "After all, it's *my* title."

When it was explained to him that Hearns would be the drawing card, Warring adjusted his stance, but only slightly.

"Well, since it's Tommy," he said, "maybe I'll fight him for $100,000 less."

Although Warring engaged in an impressive kickboxing career, winning world titles at light heavyweight, cruiserweight, and super heavyweight, he wasn't earning a satisfactory income. So he became a boxer, and fought his first pro bout in January 1985, scoring a one-round knockout of Jessie Torres in Hialeah, Florida. If Warring thought for a moment that boxing would be easy, he learned otherwise eight months later, when he fought a scheduled 10-rounder with veteran Pat Strachan, who was 20-3 (10). Warring blames his eighth-round TKO loss on his former manager, Al Bonanni.

"James was—and is—a very talented athlete," said Bonanni, who manages Baby Sugar Rojas, Uriah Grant, and Freddie Pendleton, among others. "But he wanted to make a lot of money fast in boxing. So I told him I had a fight in the Bahamas with Strachan for a couple of thousand dollars, but that I didn't think he was ready for him. But James' ego told him he could do it."

Bonanni thought Warring might decision Strachan in a distance fight, but he knew it would be a demanding bout that would show Warring that he'd be wise to fight lesser opponents for a while longer.

"I wanted to teach him a lesson," Bonanni said. "And by round seven, he started to get hurt, and there was no doubt in my mind that James would have been knocked out if he had continued. So I stopped the fight. James never trusted me after that."

Warring fought for Bonanni six more times through 1986. He was under contract through 1988, but said he refused to fight in '87 and '88, and as a result, was inactive. Bonanni, however, claims it was he who told his fighter to get lost.

Warring returned to kickboxing, winning world titles in 1988, 1989, and 1990.

"I didn't realize how much I missed kickboxing," he said. "I loved the sport. It gave me a thrill. I mean, doesn't every man want to kick another man in the face?"

It was during his return to kickboxing that Warring met the filmmakers of *The Opponent*, starring Ernest

(Continued on page 65)

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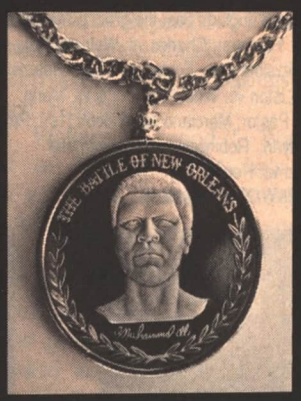

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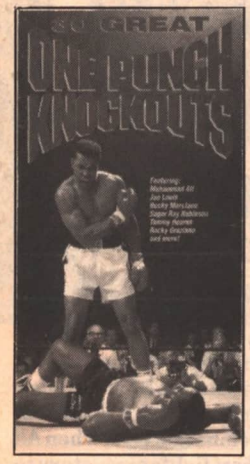

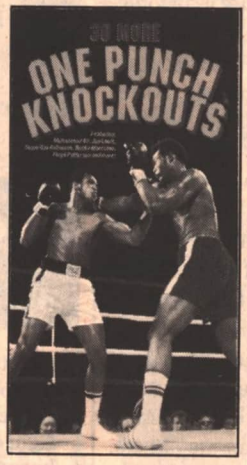

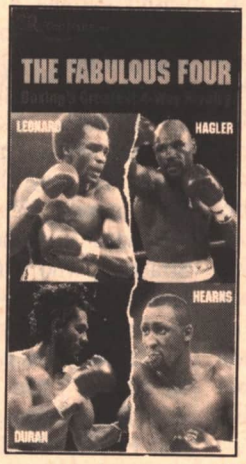

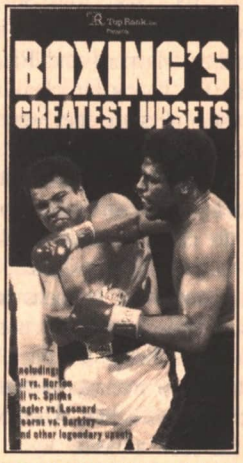

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James Warring

(Continued from page 63)

Borgnine. Told that the director was still looking to fill roles, Warring read for a small part and got it. He followed with a role in *Blood Fist II,* in which he played a good-guy boxer who meets his death when someone throws a spear through him. Shakespeare it wasn't.

"But I got off eight lines before my character died," he points out.

In 1989, Warring returned to boxing for good at the age of 31. He signed with Luis DeCubas, who was handling rising cruiserweight Robert Daniels. Warring won all three fights that year, including a 10-round decision over rated Craig Bodzianowski. Warring didn't fight for another 13 months, when he decisioned Nate Miller, who was also rated.

Warring said DeCubas told him he had been having difficulty securing fights, so the cruiserweight dropped him. In 1991, Warring signed with Arnie Rosenthal, a former executive vice president at the Financial News Network cable-TV station, who also manages light heavyweight contender Anthony Hembrick. Rosenthal delivered Warring an IBF title shot in September after Jeff Lampkin vacated the throne.

In Sicily, Italy, Warring made history by knocking out James Pritchard in 24 seconds. It was the shortest title fight ever. (The previous mark was 40 seconds, set in 1987 by welterweight champion Lloyd Honeyghan, who kayoed Gene Hatcher.)

Warring did not take a single punch from Pritchard, whom he finished off with a right to the chin. Though the champion considers himself a boxer, he earned a reputation as a puncher that night.

"To be honest with you, I didn't think any of the punches I threw were that hard," said Warring, who joined former IBF featherweight champion Troy Dorsey as the only other former kickboxer to become a boxing champion. "But after Pritchard fell, I saw his legs shaking, so I guess the punches must've had some force behind them."

After referee Joe Cortez counted out Pritchard, Warring cried.

"I thought I was dreaming," he said. "I never thought the fight would be that easy. It was just a great feeling."

Added Rosenthal: "It was such an emotional moment for James. The big guy was really crying. It was a weird moment for me, too, because I happened to be at the Honeyghan-Hatcher fight four years ago in Marbella, Spain. After it was over, I said, 'Wow.' But I never imagined that I'd see the record broken. And it would've been farfetched to think a fighter I managed would do it. But that's what happened."

Since his defense against Wingfield, Warring's career has been on hold. On New Year's Eve, he slipped in the gym and twisted his right knee, aggravating an old college football injury, initially sustained in 1978 at Eastern Illinois University. (Warring was a Division II All-America wide receiver. One year later, he had a free-agent tryout with the Oakland Raiders, but was cut.)

Warring underwent arthroscopic surgery. He plans to return in the spring and defend against England's Johnny Nelson. But Rosenthal and promoter Cedric Kushner still haven't given up hope for a shot against Hearns.

"It's a possibility," Rosenthal said. "I don't think Hearns wants to fight [WBC cruiserweight king] Anaclet Wamba, because there's no money for him in that one. And having talked to Tommy in January, it doesn't sound like he'll be fighting before June. I know he thinks James is the easiest of the three cruiserweight champions to beat, so that could work in our favor.

"But even if Hearns-Warring doesn't come off in '92, there's always the mandatory defense against Al Cole. And someday Bobby Czyz. Who knows? Maybe in time, James might move up to heavyweight. At 6'4", he's big enough to put on extra weight. But for now, there are some interesting possibilities right in the cruiserweight division."

When asked how he might fare against Evander Holyfield, Mike Tyson, Razor Ruddock, and Riddick Bowe, Warring surprisingly made no bold predictions. But he said he'd have no trouble beating them if he fought as a kickboxer.

"I'd take them out in three to four rounds," he said.

"Even Tyson?" he was asked.

"I'd have all of them for lunch. They're all great boxers, mind you. But they'd freak out if they saw a man swinging four limbs at them instead of two. They wouldn't be able to take kicks to the shins, and sweeping kicks to the head and sides."

Warring recalled the time a few years ago when Hearns came to Miami for an exhibition with martial arts champion Bill "Superfoot" Wallace. At a prefight press conference, Warring interrupted the proceedings and addressed Hearns.

"Bill Wallace is good," Warring shouted to Hearns. "But he's old. Now, if you want to make history and beat a kickboxer, why don't you try me?"

"Who are you?" Hearns said.

"James Warring."

Hearns only smiled. But when recently asked about Warring, the "Hit Man" said he most certainly knew who he was.

"If we ever did fight," said Hearns, who stands 6'1", "it'd be the first time I ever fought someone taller than me."

"To me," responded Warring, "Tommy's just a little midget."

It sounds like this 190-pounder may be *cruisin'* for a bruisin'. ■

Billy Soose

(Continued from page 43)

But Conn hadn't been just talking trash. It was evident that a lot of college boxers lacked the killer instinct found in a good pro. Some collegians took up the sport too late, while others were nothing more than converted football players. But not Billy Soose.

"No way; I thought too much of my legs to play that football game," he explained.

Like Conn, Soose was the product of the mean streets of Western Pennsylvania—Conn from East Liberty, just outside of Pittsburgh, and Soose from Farrell. His love for boxing grew out of childhood scrapes. In fact, Soose was once tossed out of a gym because he was too young to box.

What set Soose apart from the other college pugilists was that he arrived at Penn State with a total of 176 amateur bouts under his belt, 170 of which were wins. "People forget that," he said.

His career had included three Golden Gloves titles and the U.S. amateur crown. At Penn State, he fought like a man among boys, winning all 17 of his bouts by knockout and capturing the national intercollegiate title in 1937.

"A lot of teams wouldn't come up to fight Penn State if I was on the

(Continued on page 68)

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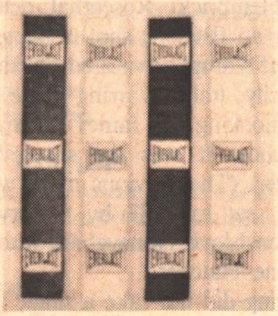

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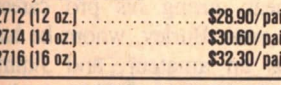

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$31.50

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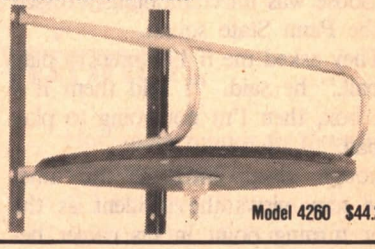

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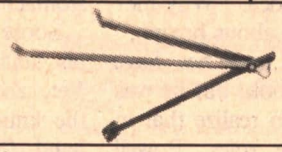

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Billy Soose

(Continued from page 65)

team," he recalled.

It wasn't long before boxing officials feared that Soose would kill someone in the ring. As a result, they pushed through a rule barring Golden Gloves champions from fighting in college, and Soose was unceremoniously tossed off the Penn State squad.

"They asked me if I wanted to play football," he said. "I told them if I can't box, then I'm not going to play football."

Though disappointed at the time, Soose now views the incident as the major turning point in his career because it drove him to leave college after his sophomore year and turn pro. But first he needed a manager. And, even though a college champion had never won a pro title, there were plenty eager to handle his career. A 23-year-old fighter with 187 wins to his credit? Even Jack Dempsey offered his services.

Loyal to his roots, Soose turned to Paul Moss, a Farrell native and Penn State grad who earlier had arranged for the fighter to attend Penn State. Moss had moved to Hollywood and dabbled in scriptwriting before becoming the manager for actor Dick Powell.

"Paul wasn't the Mafia type," Soose recalled. "He was a gentleman, and they thought a gentleman didn't belong in boxing."

Apparently, Moss agreed, and he initially scoffed at the idea. "Why me? I don't know anything about boxing," he told Soose. Moss may not have known a jab from a hook, but he was smart. Smart enough to realize that in order to secure more roles, Powell could use a little grit to go with his pretty-boy image, and smart enough to think about his parents, who owned a furniture store in Farrell. Saying no to a popular local product like Soose could have damaged the family business.

Soose and Moss were boxing's original odd couple, the Hollywood manager and the boxer with the Hollywood looks. But it didn't take long to realize theirs was an ideal marriage. Moss announced that Powell was managing Soose, and both actor and boxer received their share of publicity.

Soose began his pro career in March 1938, fighting in Los Angeles, Long Beach, and Hollywood. He was 5-0 (3), and getting plenty of attention, but little money. (His biggest purse was $50.) His big break came when he was offered $1,000 to fight Al Quaill at Pittsburgh's Forbes Field in July '38.

Imagine a college boy getting a grand to fight in Conn's backyard. In fact, the fight was on the same card as the Conn-Teddy Yarosz fight. But the night belonged to Soose, who grabbed the headlines with a 10-round decision over the favored Quaill. (Yarosz beat Conn in a brawl.)

The Quaill fight was significant for several reasons. First, Soose proved to veteran fight fans that his clippings from Penn State and California hadn't been fabricated. Second, he proved his mettle by climbing off the floor to win.

But the most significant footnote of the fight was the broken knuckle Soose sustained on his right hand. He won several fights afterward, including three by knockout, but it was obvious that his right hand was hurting him. An operation failed to correct the problem, and Soose turned to working in a steel plant in Farrell, hoping that handling 100-pound ingots would strengthen the hand. It didn't.

Soose even spent time in Maine, chopping wood with lumberjacks and rowing. He returned to the ring, but the hand never completely healed.

"I'd hit a guy with my right and it was gone," he said. "I'd feel the pain right up to my neck. So I used it mostly for the stomach. That was the best punch anyway. It wouldn't hurt so much if I hit someone in the stomach."

Soose had always prided himself on his ability to box rather than brawl. Yet, according to one scribe, before the knuckle injury, his powerful right hand "had the potency of a mine mule's kick." While he won more than half of his amateur fights by knockout, he dropped only 13 of his pro opponents for the count. By 1938, Soose was a one-handed fighter. "I won the title with my left hand," he said with pride.

And with trainer Ray Arcel, who joined Soose just before the middleweight's fight with Charley Burley in November 1938. The relationship began when Moss approached Arcel in Manhattan's Stillman's Gym.

"I looked at him and thought he was crazy," Arcel recalled. "Nobody would fight Charley Burley. He was outstanding. He was the uncrowned middleweight champion, the uncrowned light heavyweight champion. Heavyweights wouldn't fight him, that's how great he was."

But Arcel agreed and told Soose, "Look, nobody in the world expects you to win, so go in there and fight a defensive fight. Let him do all the work. You counter and box as best you can, but let him do all the work.

"[Soose] went in there and did a tremendous job for 10 rounds. He made Burley miss, and Burley was a super performer. Well, Billy got a terrific hand afterward. Nobody expected him to last. They expected it to go no more than two or three rounds."

In his dressing room, Soose cried because he had lost. Again, Arcel was there for advice.

"What are you crying about?" he said. "You scored a moral victory. You went 10 rounds with the best fighter in the world."

Impressed with Soose's desire, as well as his training habits, Arcel decided to stick around. He lived with the middleweight and Moss at their Pennsylvania training camp, and worked the corner of every fight until Soose answered his last bell in Janaury 1942. Arcel trained Soose, formulated the fight plans, and gave Moss a hand at setting up fights.

"He had a very large impact on my career," Soose acknowledged. "He was my doctor, my mentor, and everything else. He took care of me. He made me eat the right food and got me to bed at the right time. He followed me around like I was a baby, but he was a very caring person. He made me a better fighter. He was like a general in the ring. If I was getting hit, he'd tell me why I was getting hit, and things to do to stop getting hit. He was a good student of boxing."

While the Quaill fight proved that Soose was a legitimate fighter, the Burley bout introduced him as a challenger to the middleweight title held by Overlin.

Even two losses in Pittsburgh to Georgie Abrams couldn't stop Soose from moving forward. Abrams was one of three fighters that Soose couldn't beat during his pro career. The others were Burley, whom he had defeated as an amateur, and Jimmy Bivins, to whom he lost in his very last fight.

In July 1940, the middleweight division was split when Zale won the NBA title. But Soose beat him the next

(Continued on page 70)

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2) Ron Lyle 4) Ken Norton

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1) 3 rounds 3) 10 rounds
2) 5 rounds 4) 15 rounds

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Billy Soose

(Continued from page 68)

month in Chicago, recovering from a slow start to claim a 10-round decision.

"He hit me in the liver in the first round and I didn't know whether to crap or vomit," Soose remembered. "He paralyzed me. But he was a mechanical fighter. He had one pattern—jab and left hook, and right to the heart. After that he comes back with a left hook."

The non-title win over Zale, coupled with a victory against Overlin earlier that summer, left Soose wearing an invisible crown.

"They didn't know who the champ was," he said. "Zale, Overlin, or Soose. I had beaten the two of them, but I couldn't get a fight for the championship."

The wait ended in 1941, when, at the urging of Moss, Soose finally came east to New York. He beat Tami Mauriello and Ernie Vigh by decision. Not pleased with his performance against Vigh, Soose fought him again a month later. He opened the fight with a right to Vigh's jaw that sent his opponent to the canvas, and proceeded to easily win the next 11 rounds with his left hand.

Up next was Overlin, and this time it was for the title.

"It was a lousy fight," said Soose. "Two boxers don't make a good fight. He would jab and I would jab, and then we'd hold."

The fight took place at Madison Square Garden on May 9, 1941. Soose outpointed the champion, but the decision was booed by the crowd and questioned by reporters.

"Your man didn't look like a champ," Moss was told.

"He'd look like a champ checking coats," was the manager's reply.

Questioning the credibility of the judges, Overlin's camp wanted an investigation of the decision. But the State Athletic Commission let it stand.

"I thought the fight was close, but I'm glad I won," Soose said. "I'm glad the judges saw that I won."

In his hotel room the next day, Soose found himself looking at his belt as tears streamed down his face.

"When I won the title, I was the happiest guy in the world," he said. "But the next day I cried like a baby. I had nothing left to win. I didn't want to win any more titles."

Soose never defended the crown. He fought three non-title bouts before realizing that making weight was no longer a possibility. In November 1941, six months after he decisioned Overlin, Soose relinquished the title and became the number-one light heavyweight contender. But after two fights, he hung up his gloves for good and joined the Navy. Not even an offer of $100,000 to fight Joe Louis in 1945 could bring Soose, who weighed 210 pounds at the time, out of retirement.

"I thought I had reached my goal," he said. "I didn't want to fight anymore."

Instead, Soose retired to Lake Wallenpaupack, where he owned 198 acres of lakeside property. He turned his energies toward the tourist trade and opened a restaurant, hotel, and marina on what eventually became 400 acres. For entertainment, Soose used to have Floyd Patterson bring his stable of boxers to town for exhibitions. He also sponsored professional wrestling matches. He now owns only 20 acres, having sold the bulk over the past two years for $2.5-million, and a winter home in Florida.

Soose had a fling with the movie business, reading for the Lou Gehrig part in *Pride Of The Yankees*. (His legs were filmed for the boxing scenes in *The Crowd Roars*.) He was in Cuba filming a movie when Fidel Castro came into power.

He even became good friends with Billy Conn.

"I was supposed to fight him," he said, "but it fell through."

Too bad. The college boy might have taught Conn a thing or two.

Roger Mooney, a frequent contributor to The Ring, is a freelance writer based in S. Huntington, New York. ■

New Faces

(Continued from page 16)

to him," said Turner. "I said, 'If Rob and Fareed will stick with you, I'll stick with you.' "

It didn't take long for Hopkins to impress his new managers. In his fifth fight with Murray and Ahmed, Hopkins outpointed Percy Harris, who was 8-0 (6). Since his return, he's won 14 straight fights. As we went to press, he was rated 11th by the IBF and was scheduled to face recent world title

challenger Dennis Milton on ESPN.

"There is a pretty good crop of young fighters in Philadelphia right now," said Nigel Collins, a Philadelphia-based correspondent for the British *Boxing News,* and a former editor of *The Ring*. "Bernard's probably the best; he's got a lot going for him."

It's been difficult to gauge just how good Hopkins is. His fights usually don't last long enough for a thorough analysis. He has scored 11 knockouts, including 10 in the first round.

"I'm impressed with Hopkins' fluid style," said Collins. "He's very smooth with everything he does, and he's a good puncher."

Hopkins has the ability to punch with either hand, but like most Philly fighters, the left hook is his best weapon. He demonstrated his power in September 1991, with a one-round blowout of durable veteran Ralph Moncrief.

Hopkins, 27, is co-promoted by Ring Warriors and Bob Arum's Top Rank. In December, Arum gave him the opportunity to showcase his skills for the national media on the Mike McCallum-James Toney undercard. His opponent, the usually aggressive Willie Kemp, got a taste of Hopkins' power early in the scheduled 10-rounder and became a reluctant warrior. Hopkins pounded out a dull unanimous decision, and his management was pleased that he had finally been extended to 10 rounds. No one was complaining—except Hopkins.

"I expected Willie Kemp to come out bombing," he said. "I've seen him fight, and he's always on your chest. But I guess the word is out. Their game plan is to just survive the first five rounds and hope I burn myself out.

"I don't ever plan on going 10 rounds; I get paid the same if I knock 'em out in 32 seconds or two hours."

Hopkins is trained by Bouie Fisher at the legendary Champ's Gym in North Philly. He spars regularly with IBF light heavyweight champion Prince Charles Williams and unbeaten junior middleweight John David Jackson. It's not unusual to find him back in the gym two or three days after a fight. He's *that* hungry.

"I have no silver spoon in my mouth," he said. "I didn't come up with a big-time promoter. I'm getting mine from the muscle. I have to take my respect."

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WBA as of November

IBF as of December

HEAVYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Evander Holyfield (USA)	C	C	C
Mike Tyson (USA)	1	1	1
Riddick Bowe (USA)	2	5	4
Razor Ruddock (CAN)	3	6	6
Lennox Lewis (GB)	4	3	5
Michael Moorer (USA)	5	8	9
George Foreman (USA)	6	4	2
Tony Tucker (USA)	7	11	7
Tim Witherspoon (USA)	8	7	8
Phil Jackson (USA)	9	10	-
Bert Cooper (USA)	10	9	12
Pierre Coetzer (SA)	-	2	3
Francesco Damiani (ITA)	17	9	-
Carl Williams (USA)	15	-	10

CRUISERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Anaclet Wamba (FRA)	C	-	-
Jeff Lampkin (USA)	1	-	-
Orlin Norris (USA)	2	4	2
Dennis Andries (GB)	3	5	-
Johnny Nelson (GB)	4	3	6
Derek Angol (GB)	5	2	7
Dwight Muhammad Qawi (USA)	6	12	8
Massimiliano Duran (ITA)	7	-	-
Robert Daniels (USA)	8	6	-
Alfred Cole (USA)	9	1	1
Dmitrij Eliseev (USSR)	10	-	-
Bobby Czyz (USA)	-	C	-
Taoufik Belbouli (FRA)	16	7	-
Mike Hunter (USA)	13	8	3
Akim Tafer (FRA)	14	9	-
Don Lalonde (CAN)	-	10	9
James Warring (USA)	-	-	C
Iby Zimmerman (CAU)	-	-	4
Richard Mason (USA)	11	-	5
Carlos DeLeon (PR)	-	-	10

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jeff Harding (AUSTR)	C	-	-
Virgil Hill (USA)	1	3	3
Frank Tate (USA)	2	-	1
David Vedder (USA)	3	-	-
Graciano Rocchigiani (GER)	4	2	2
Christophe Tiozzo (FRA)	5	-	-
Andrew Maynard (USA)	6	1	6
Don Lalonde (CAN)	7	-	-
Esteban Pizarro (PR)	8	6	5
Randall Yonker (USA)	9	-	-
Isaias Lucero (MEX)	10	10	12
Thomas Hearns (USA)	-	C	-
Anthony Hembrick (USA)	12	4	4
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	16	7	-
Ed Mack (USA)	20	8	-
Wan Sub Lee (KOR)	29	9	-
Charles Williams (USA)	-	-	C
Iran Barkley (USA)	17	-	7
Saul Montana (MEX)	-	5	8
Mwehu Beya (ITA)	-	-	9
Booker Word (USA)	14	12	10

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Mauro Galvano (ITA)	C	-	-
Michael Nunn (USA)	1	2	1
Tony Thornton (USA)	2	3	2
Nigel Benn (GB)	3	-	-
James Cook (GB)	4	1	8
Dan Schommer (USA)	5	-	-
Juan Carlos Gimenez (PAR)	6	-	5
Lindell Holmes (USA)	7	6	3
Ron Essett (USA)	8	5	7
Frank Nicotra (FRA)	9	8	10
Merqui Sosa (DR)	10	12	-
Victor Cordoba (PAN)	-	C	-
Christophe Tiozzo (FRA)	-	4	6
Vicenzo Nardiello (ITA)	17	7	-
Tarmo Uusivirta (FIN)	14	9	-
Randall Yonker (USA)	-	10	-
Darrin Van Horn (USA)	-	-	C
John Jarvis (USA)	28	-	4
Nelson Alves (GER)	21	-	9

MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julian Jackson (USA)	C	-	-
Sumbu Kalambay (ITA)	1	3	4
Lamar Parks (USA)	2	4	6
Mike McCallum (JAM)	3	-	2
Reggie Johnson (USA)	4	2	1
Herol Graham (GB)	5	-	5
Steve Collins (USA)	6	1	3
Willie Monroe (USA)	7	-	-
Ismael Negron (USA)	8	-	-
Ron Collins (USA)	9	-	-
Dennis Milton (USA)	10	-	-
Thomas Tate (USA)	15	5	7
Nigel Benn (GB)	-	6	-
Joe Gatti (USA)	21	7	-
Ulysses Boulware (USA)	29	8	-
Chad Parker (USA)	-	9	-
Frank Liles (USA)	-	10	-
James Toney (USA)	-	-	C
Kid Milo (GB)	-	-	8
Ruben Cabral (ARG)	-	11	9
Francesco Dell'Aquila (ITA)	14	-	10

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Terry Norris (USA)	C	-	-
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	1	2	-
Simon Brown (USA)	2	-	-
Aaron Davis (USA)	3	3	6
Jorge Vaca (MEX)	4	4	3
Carl Daniels (USA)	5	-	-
Jorge Castro (ARG)	6	1	1
Wally Swift (GB)	7	-	7
Jean Claude Fontana (FRA)	8	11	-
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	9	-	-
Yung Kil Chung (KOR)	10	6	-
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	-	C	-
Gilbert Dele (FRA)	12	5	2
Jun Sok Hwang (KOR)	-	7	-
Vernon Phillips (USA)	-	8	12
Gregory Clark (SA)	-	9	-
Pat Lawlor (USA)	-	10	11
Gianfranco Rosi (ITA)	-	-	C
Glenn Wolfe (USA)	15	-	4
Roy Jones (USA)	-	12	5
Vincent Pettway (USA)	14	-	8
Gilbert Baptist (USA)	11	-	9
Quincy Taylor (USA)	13	-	10

WELTERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
James McGirt (USA)	C	-	-
Genaro Leon (MEX)	1	7	7
Patrizio Oliva (ITA)	2	9	1
Santos Cardona (PR)	3	-	-
Glenwood Brown (USA)	4	3	3
Luis Gabriel Garcia (VEN)	5	4	2
Vernon Phillips (USA)	6	-	-
Jong Oh Park (KOR)	7	6	-
Hiroyuki Yoshino (JAP)	8	8	12
David Gonzalez (USA)	9	-	8
Ludovic Proto (FRA)	10	-	-
Meldrick Taylor (USA)	-	C	-
Crisanto Espana (VEN)	-	1	5
Carl Daniels (USA)	-	2	4
Simon Brown (USA)	-	5	-
Donovan Boucher (CAN)	11	10	9
Maurice Blocker (USA)	-	-	C
Stephan Johnson (USA)	-	-	6
Yori Campas (MEX)	16	11	10

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	C	-	-
Angel Hernandez (PR)	1	-	12
Juan M. Coggi (ARG)	2	2	-
Pat Barrett (GB)	3	3	6
Harold Brazier (USA)	4	-	8

Alberto Cortes (ARG)	5	-	-
Terrence Ali (USA)	6	5	3
Rodney Moore (USA)	7	4	5
Loreto Garza (USA)	8	9	-
Greg Haugen (USA)	9	-	11
Ike Quartey (GHA)	10	-	10
Edwin Rosario (PR)	-	C	-
Akinobu Hiranaka (JAP)	-	1	-
Pyung Sup Kim (KOR)	-	6	-
Guillermo Mosquera (COL)	-	7	-
Valery Kayumba (ZAI)	21	8	-
Rodolfo Aguilar (PAN)	25	10	-
Rafael Pineda (COL)	-	-	1
Roger Mayweather (USA)	16	-	2
Charles Murray (USA)	13	-	4
Oba Carr (USA)	20	-	7
Andy Holligan (GB)	12	-	9

LIGHTWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	C	C	C
Chil Sung Chun (KOR)	1	1	-
Darryll Tyson (USA)	2	2	5
Miguel Gonzalez (MEX)	3	9	9
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	4	7	7
Freddie Pendleton (USA)	5	-	1
Shane Knox (AUSTRL)	6	-	8
Wilfredo Rocha (COL)	7	-	-
Jorge Paez (MEX)	8	5	4
Poli Diaz (SPA)	9	6	-
Antonio Renzo (ITA)	10	-	-
Joey Gamache (USA)	11	3	-
Antonio Esparragoza (VEN)	-	4	-
Omar Flores (MEX)	14	8	-
Tracy Spann (USA)	12	10	2
Eduardo Molina (COL)	17	-	3
Miguel Julio (COL)	23	-	6
Todd Foster (USA)	19	-	10

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Azumah Nelson (GHA)	C	-	-
Jeff Fenech (AUSTRL)	1	1	-
John-John Molina (PR)	2	4	1
Gabe Ruelas (USA)	3	9	10
Regilio Tuur (HOL)	4	6	11
Tyrone Downes (TRIN)	5	-	-
Bernard Taylor (USA)	6	-	6
Tony Lopez (USA)	7	3	3
Marcos Guevara (VEN)	8	-	-
Pierre Lorcy (FRA)	9	2	-
Victor Hugo Paz (ARG)	10	-	-
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	-	C	-
Ricardo Cepeda (USA)	-	5	-
Eugene Speed (USA)	12	7	-
Yuji Watanabe (JAP)	-	8	-
Daniel Londas (FRA)	15	10	-
Brian Mitchell (SA)	-	-	C
Fernando Caicedo (COL)	-	-	2
Jackie Gunguluza (SA)	-	-	4
Coco Ramirez (MEX)	-	-	5
Orlando Marimon (COL)	-	-	7
Jerry Ngobeni (SA)	-	-	8
Francisco Valdez (MEX)	-	-	9

FEATHERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Paul Hodkinson (GB)	C	-	-
Ricardo Cepeda (USA)	1	-	9
Kevin Kelley (USA)	2	2	5
Ever Beleno (COL)	3	6	10
Fabrice Benichou (FRA)	4	7	-
Jose Ramos (DR)	5	-	-
Seiji Asakawa (JAP)	6	9	-
Goyo Vargas (MEX)	7	-	-
Miguel Francia (ARG)	8	-	-
Tom Johnson (USA)	9	3	2
Eloy Rojas (VEN)	10	4	-
Yung Kyun Park (KOR)	-	C	-
Jackie Gunguluza (SA)	-	1	-
Luisito Espinosa (PHIL)	13	5	-
Colin McMillan (GB)	12	8	11
Manuel Medina (MEX)	-	-	C
November Ntshingila (SA)	-	-	1
Cedric Mingo (USA)	-	-	3
James Leija (USA)	11	10	4
Troy Dorsey (USA)	-	-	6
Harold Rhodes (USA)	24	-	7
Lupe Gutierrez (USA)	16	-	8

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	C	-	-
Tracy Patterson (USA)	1	1	1
Kiyoshi Hatanaka (JAP)	2	7	-
Jesus Salud (USA)	3	-	4
Freddy Cruz (DR)	4	2	-
Jemal Hinton (USA)	5	3	8
Pedro Decima (ARG)	6	-	5
Luis Mendoza (COL)	7	4	-
Jose Garcia (DR)	8	-	-
Thierry Jacob (FRA)	9	-	-
Jae Won Choi (KOR)	10	6	-
Raul Perez (MEX)	-	C	-
Ramon Guzman (VEN)	-	5	6
Jose Rincones (VEN)	27	8	10
Wilfredo Vazquez (PR)	15	9	-
Arnulfo Romero (PAN)	27	10	-
Welcome Ncita (SA)	-	-	C
Richard Duran (USA)	-	-	2
Baby Rojas (USA)	-	-	3
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	30	11	7
Hurley Snead (USA)	-	-	9

BANTAMWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	C	-	-
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	1	-	-
Chang Kyun Oh (KOR)	2	-	-
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	3	2	-
Pepillo Valdez (MEX)	4	-	11
Gerardo Martinez (USA)	5	-	-
Eliecer Julio (COL)	6	1	-
Francisco Alvarez (COL)	7	-	2
Junior Jones (USA)	8	3	4
Daorung Chuvatana (THAI)	9	4	-
Javier Leon (MEX)	10	11	10
Israel Contreras (VEN)	-	C	-
Thierry Jacob (FRA)	-	5	1
Dio Andujar (PHIL)	15	6	6
Greg Richardson (USA)	-	7	-
Yasuey Yakushiji (JAP)	12	8	-
Luis Malave (VEN)	-	9	-
Harold Mestre (COL)	-	10	9
Orlando Canizales (USA)	-	-	C
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	-	-	3
Billy Hardy (GB)	-	-	5
Luisito Espinosa (PHIL)	-	-	7
Ray Minus (BAH)	-	-	8

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Sung Kil Moon (KOR)	C	-	-
Katsuya Onizuka (JAP)	1	1	9
Johnny Tapia (USA)	2	10	-
Greg Richardson (USA)	3	-	-
Thalerngsak Sithbaobay (THAI)	4	2	12
Luis Bueno (MEX)	5	-	4
Carlos Mercado (COL)	6	-	1
Elvis Alvarez (COL)	7	11	-
Kenji Matsumura (JAP)	8	5	-
Jerry Penalosa (PHIL)	9	-	-
Armando Salazar (MEX)	10	-	-
Khaosai Galaxy (THAI)	-	C	-
Armando Castro (MEX)	12	3	-
Hyun Chul Lee (KOR)	-	4	-
Joel Luna (MEX)	11	6	2
Torsak Osotsapha (THAI)	-	7	-
Jing Gil Byun (MEX)	29	8	-
Guillermo Salcedo (COL)	-	9	-
Robert Quiroga (USA)	-	-	C
Luiz Ferreira (BRA)	13	-	3
Vincenzo Belcastro (ITA)	-	-	5
Satoshi Shingaki (JAP)	-	-	6
Samuel Duran (PHIL)	-	-	7
Chatohai Tanieul (THAI)	-	-	8
Lamhot Simamora (INDO)	15	12	10

FLYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Muangchai Kittikasem (THAI)	C	-	-
Sot Chitalada (THAI)	1	-	-
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	2	-	3
Yun Un Chin (KOR)	3	7	-
Yuri Arbachakov (USSR)	4	5	6
Alberto Jimenez (MEX)	5	-	-
Rolando Pascua (PHIL)	6	-	-
Al Kotey (GHA)	7	12	5
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	8	-	-
Rodolfo Blanco (COL)	9	1	1
Antonio Perez (MEX)	10	-	-
Yong Kang Kim (KOR)	-	C	-
Jonathan Penalosa (PHIL)	-	2	-
Kotaro Hayashi (JAP)	20	3	-
David Griman (VEN)	-	4	-
Alvaro Mercado (COL)	-	6	-
Julio Gudino (PAN)	19	8	-
Scotty Olson (USA)	21	9	8
Salvatore Fanni (ITA)	14	10	-
Dave McAuley (IRE)	-	-	C
Tongchai Kittikasem (THAI)	-	-	2
Dodi Penalosa (PHIL)	18	-	4
Harold Grey (COL)	-	-	7
John Johnson (USA)	-	-	9
Cuachtemoc Gomez (MEX)	13	-	10

LIGHT FLYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Humberto Gonzalez (MEX)	C	-	-
Domingo Sosa (DR)	1	-	1
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	2	8	7
Myung Woo Yuh (JAP)	3	-	-
Nam Hoon Cha (KOR)	4	2	-
Alejandro Montiel (MEX)	5	-	-
Leon Salazar (PAN)	6	-	5
Javier Varguez (MEX)	7	-	-
Napa Kiatwanchi (THAI)	8	-	-
Kwang Sun Kim (KOR)	9	5	-
Jesus Chong (MEX)	10	-	-
Myung Woo Yuh (KOR)	-	C	-
Hiroki Ioka (JAP)	-	1	-
Benedicto Murillo (PAN)	13	3	-
Juan A. Torres (PAN)	26	4	8
Robinson Cuestas (PAN)	14	6	2
Rolando Pascua (PHIL)	-	7	3
Jerry Penalosa (PHIL)	-	9	-
Jorge Blanco (COL)	12	10	-
Michael Carbajal (USA)	-	-	C
Boy Lucas (PHIL)	-	-	4
Azadin Anhar (INDO)	-	-	6
Felix Montiel (MEX)	-	12	9
Salvador Fanni (ITA)	-	-	10

STRAWWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	-	-
Hideyuki Ohashi (JAP)	1	2	-
Rocky Lim (JAP)	2	5	5
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	3	9	2
Kyung Yung Lee (KOR)	4	-	-
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	5	1	-
Alfredo Xeque (MEX)	6	-	3
Danny Nunez (DR)	7	11	-
Pretty Boy Lucas (PHIL)	8	7	-
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	9	4	4
Hector Patri (ARG)	10	-	-
Hi Yong Choi (KOR)	-	C	-
Sung Woo Lee (KOR)	11	3	-
Bong Jun Kim (KOR)	14	6	-
Carlos Rodriguez (VEN)	24	8	7
Yuichi Hosono (JAP)	19	10	-
Far-Lan Lukmingkwan (THAI)	-	-	C
Felix Naranjo (COL)	25	-	1
Said Iskandar (INDO)	16	-	6
Abdi Pohan (INDO)	-	-	8
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	20	12	9
Husni Ray (INDO)	28	-	10

RING CLASSIC

HENRY ARMSTRONG: HUMAN BUZZ SAW

From The Ring, January 1938

By Nat Fleischer

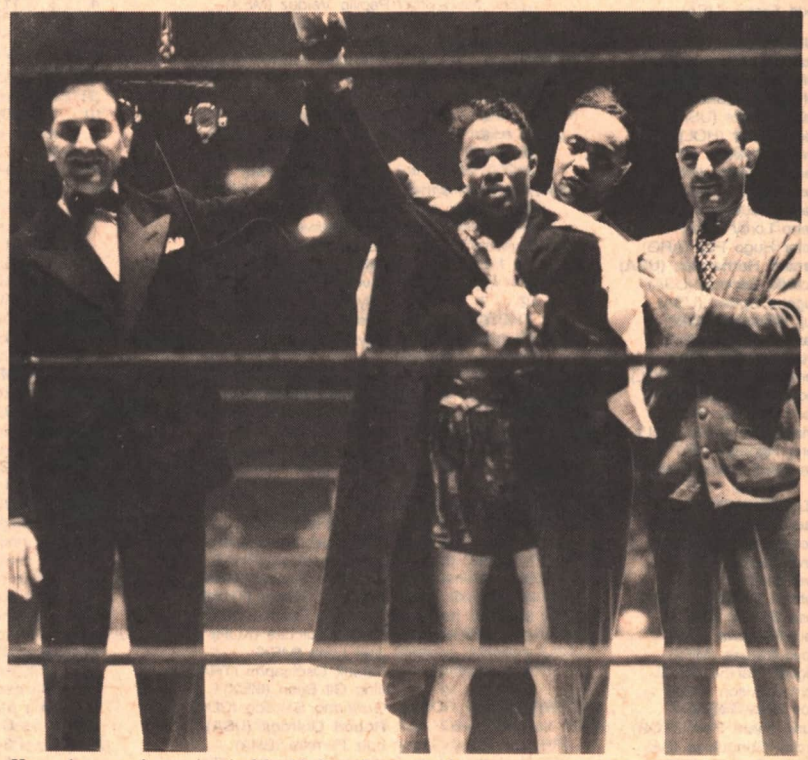
"The Human Buzz Saw"—that's what they called Henry Armstrong after he had slashed his way to victory over Petey Sarron in 2:36 of the sixth round to win the world featherweight championship at Madison Square Garden. And a buzz saw he certainly was! A human dynamo, a fighter of perpetual motion—a replica of Terry McGovern if ever there was one—that's what the old-timers who flocked to the Garden for Mike Jacobs' opening show said of the new titleholder, and their praise for the little Negro was well-deserved.

When Terry McGovern was in his prime, it was his whirlwind attack, his everlasting aggressiveness, his tearing-in, two-fisted body slashing that caused the fans to dub him "The Brooklyn Terror," and in Henry Armstrong the fight game has the nearest approach to Terry we've seen in years. For 12 years, Sarron had been engaged in meeting all comers in the featherweight and lightweight divisions, yet during all that stretch, he had never tasted the resin dust because he had never been floored. But he was put on the canvas by Armstrong in a contest that was so full of excitement that the fans left the House that Tex Built satisfied they had seen the two best featherweights of the day fight for undisputed possession of the crown.

It was a heart-gripping battle, one so savage as to be a reminder of those hectic mills between little Jack Sharkey and Joe Lynch that raised the roof off the old Garden a few years back. The little fellows, one a son of Ham, the other a hairy-chested youth of Syrian descendants, displayed a brand of courage that only ring gladiators who possess a true fighting heart ever show. No finer display has been seen in the Garden ring in many moons.

It was a powerful left hook to the stomach that started the ball rolling for Armstrong. He caught Sarron with that punch square in the breadbasket, and as Petey attempted to get out of harm's reach of another, Henry hooked over a right to the jaw and the championship was won.

Sarron rested on his knees, hurt, but in complete control of his senses. Referee Arthur Donovan, after counting three, raced over to Pete Hartley, the official knockdown timer, and taking up the count of six from him, he rushed back to where Sarron was resting. And in quicker time



Henry Armstrong's arm is raised by Madison Square Garden ring announcer Harry Ballogh after the St. Louis featherweight won the world crown by stopping Petey Sarron. The end came in round six.

than it takes to write it, the doleful decimal had been tolled off and the fight was over.

Armstrong was proclaimed new king, while his predecessor, with a look of amazement as he eyed the situation, was led back to his chair. The din that rocked the arena as Armstrong floored his rival was such as to make it almost impossible for the referee to hear the official count, and because of that, Donovan had approached Hartley. That move of the referee undoubtedly proved costly to Sarron. He had never before been down. He was told to take the full rest period and to watch the referee. He did that, but for five of the 10 seconds, the official was not at the fallen warrior's side. Had Donovan remained with Sarron and been in a position to follow the timer's count, Petey, in my opinion, would have been able to get to his feet, but that only would have delayed the knockout a few minutes, at most.

Hence, Donovan's failure to stick by his man didn't affect the final outcome any, but I bring it up as a guide for future action of referees. Their place is at the side of the fighter who is down, the man who, through motion of the hands and lips, should at all times know how many more seconds he has within which to get up. In Sarron's case, as he explained it to me, and as I already knew from watching the fight, he thought that when Donovan finally got to him, he was beginning the count, whereas Donovan was tolling off seven. But at most, it made little difference because Sarron was through—Armstrong's powerful blows had weakened him so that he couldn't possibly have continued for another round.

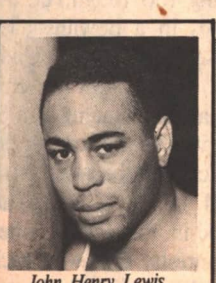
***

Neither fighter showed the slightest regard for the other's punching powers. Each delivered wallops that landed with effectiveness, first one, then the other giving and taking. Just before the knockdown, Sarron was near the ropes, where he absorbed 14 solid blows in succession without being able to return one. He stood there motionless, with arms covering his head, while Armstrong rained punch after punch to the midsection. And when Sarron finally was able to come out of his position and started to throw a right for Armstrong's jaw, "Suicidal" Henry unloosed his right and it was all over.

The furious action, in which Sarron led for three rounds, thrilled the crowd. The speed was terrific. Sarron soon learned that he had set such a fast pace that his legs just wouldn't and couldn't stand the strain. Now and then, under the heavy bombardment, a barrage that never let up, Petey's legs would buckle up and he would appear on the verge of collapse, only to come out of it a few seconds later with a counter that stood the fans on their ears. That was the procedure in every one of the six rounds.

Neither fighter paid any heed to the finer points of the game; they apparently don't know how. They are fighters of the sizzling type who merely rush at each other, both arms swinging, and each session was one continuous round of exchanges. Sarron connected with many telling punches, but they didn't stop Henry from coming in.

THE RING RATINGS, *January 1938*



John Henry Lewis

HEAVYWEIGHTS

World Champ: Joe Louis

1. Max Schmeling
2. Tommy Farr
3. Bob Pastor
4. Alberto Lovell
5. Maxie Rosenbloom
6. Nathan Mann
7. Tony Galento
8. Isadoro Gastanaga
9. Roscoe Toles
10. Arturo Godoy

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

World Champ: John Henry Lewis

1. Tiger Jack Fox
2. Al Gainer
3. Jock McAvoy
4. George Black
5. Eddie Wenstob
6. Ray Actis
7. Ralph DeJohn
8. Gus Lesnevich
9. Jack Gibbons
10. Melio Bettina

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

World Champ: Freddy Steele

1. Fred Apostoli
2. Billy Conn
3. Teddy Yarosz
4. Marcel Thil
5. Young Corbett
6. Al Hostak
7. Ben Brown
8. Lou Brouillard
9. Ken Overlin
10. Walter Woods

WELTERWEIGHTS

World Champ: Barney Ross

1. Ceferino Garcia
2. Jack Carroll
3. Gustave Eder
4. Saverio Turiello
5. Izzy Jannazzo
6. Holman Williams
7. Cocoa Kid
8. Jimmy Leto
9. Fritzie Zivic
10. Sonny Jones

LIGHTWEIGHTS

World Champ: Lou Ambers

1. Pedro Montanez
2. Billy Beauhuld
3. Davey Day
4. Wesley Ramey
5. Eddie Cool
6. Johnny Bellus
7. Paul Junior
8. Norment Quarles
9. Frankie Wallace
10. Eddie McGeever

FEATHERWEIGHTS

World Champ: Henry Armstrong

1. Petey Sarron
2. Freddy Miller
3. Young Rightmire
4. Leo Rodak
5. Jackie Wilson
6. Tony Chavez
7. Ginger Foran
8. Johnny Cusick
9. Kid Chocolate
10. Bernie Friedkin

BANTAMWEIGHTS

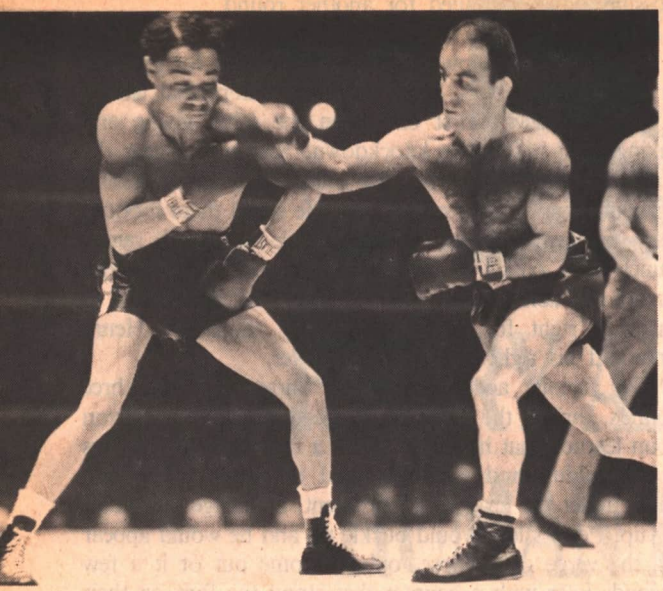
World Champ: Harry Jeffra

1. Sixto Escobar
2. K.O. Morgan
3. Lou Salica
4. Indian Quintana
5. George Pace
6. Spider Armstrong
7. Henry Hook
8. Baby Yack
9. Johnny King
10. Aurel Toma

FLYWEIGHTS

World Champ: Benny Lynch

1. Tiny Bostock
2. Peter Kane
3. Small Montana
4. Jackie Jurich
5. Jim Warnock
6. Ernst Weiss
7. Valentin Angleman
8. Mickey O'Neill
9. Jim Campbell
10. Dick Lewis



Sarron and Armstrong traded fiercely for all six rounds, but, ultimately, the defending titlist couldn't match "Hammerin' Hank's" incredible work rate.

The first two rounds found Sarron doing most of the punishing. He crashed his right with consistency to Henry's chin and took both rounds. He beat Armstrong to the punch several times and once even got the Negro off-balance. Armstrong came back, and the fight was loaded with action.

But hectic as were the first two sessions, the remaining four were even more thrilling. Three times Sarron swung off-balance to touch the canvas, and each time he leaped to his feet and sailed in just to prove that it was a slip and that he had not been floored. The third round found Armstrong coming along in winning style, but one of his punches went low and the referee penalized him.

The fourth round saw Armstrong at his best. He fought viciously and battered Petey to the Queen's taste. But Sarron wouldn't give ground. In the last 60 seconds, he had the fans on their feet and shouting advice as he unleashed a barrage that was loaded with dynamite. Henry won that session, but he knew that he had been through three minutes of stirring fighting.

Then came the fifth, in which Armstrong prepared the way for the end of the fray. The Negro came rushing out of his corner and landed a right to the chin. He set off at a fast pace and, backing Sarron toward the ropes, also had him out of the ring with a body attack. Armstrong took complete command, although at times he received almost as much as he delivered.

The sixth found the Negro again cutting loose with a heavy bombardment that came so fast, it had Petey bewildered. With both of Henry's hands flaying Sarron's body, the gathering sensed the end. Petey's legs were weakening. A heavy right took the wind out of him. He covered up, and then came punch after punch—14 in a row, according to my count—before Sarron uncovered and tried to mix it again. An exchange proved more favorable to the challenger. His right crashed against the chin. And Sarron slumped to the canvas, and from a sitting position, in which his knees offered the support, he was counted out.

***

Prior to the fight, Sarron was lightly regarded in New York. They called him a "clown." They said that he was only a pretender to the title, but after his appearance against Armstrong, nothing but praise was showered on him. He had made good with a vengeance. He displayed the kind of fighting the fans will pay to see, and now is as much in demand in the States as he was abroad, where he fought for more than a year.

Admirers of the dusky little new champion, who were worried about his ability to make weight, learned in the Sarron fight that Henry is a legitimate featherweight who can get down to 126 and not feel weak. He scaled only 124, to 126 for his adversary.

The paid attendance of 11,847, with a gate of $34,823, was amazing considering that featherweights have been the promoters' bugaboo in New York for many years.

The new champion's climb to fistic heights was not an easy one. A tireless lad of abnormal strength for his weight and inches, Armstrong takes his place among the great little fighters of modern times. One of a family of 13 children, he was left motherless at the age of five, and he has helped to contribute toward the support of the family since he was eight, first by selling papers, and later through odd jobs.

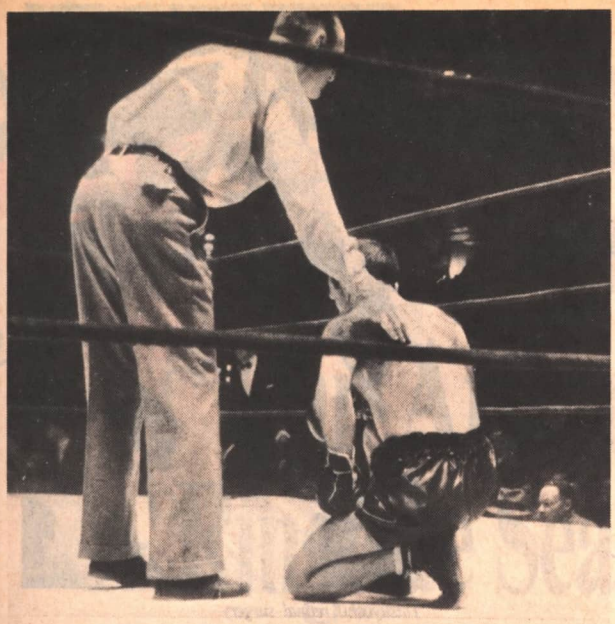
He is a graduate of Washington High School of St. Louis, where he became very much interested in the study of hygiene, and for a time he thought that he would take up medicine, but financial difficulties prevented that. For a time after he graduated from school, he worked with a railroad gang, swinging a sledgehammer, and he attributes his strength and hitting power, as does Harry Balsamo, to that work. Twenty-four of his last 25 opponents have landed on the canvas, to be counted out or saved from further punishment through the intervention of the referee.

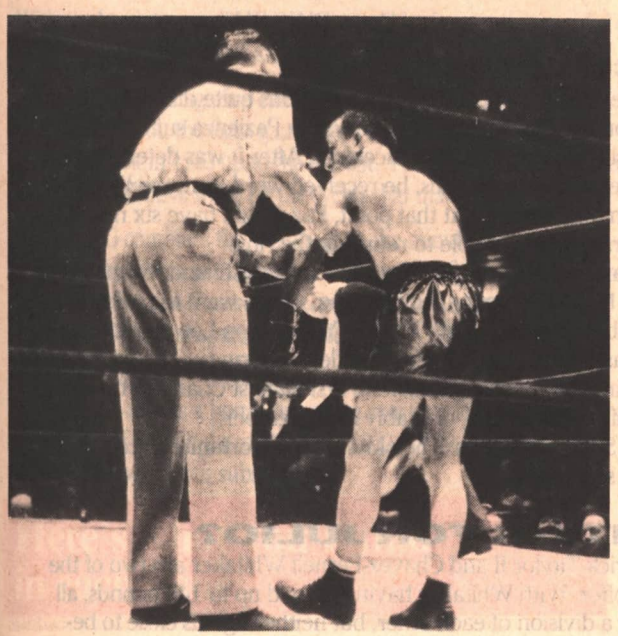
When Armstrong found the going too tough, he quit swinging a sledge to set up the pins in a bowling alley, and from there he entered his present profession. Under the able supervision of his brother, Harry, now his chief trainer, Armstrong took up boxing as an amateur in a St. Louis gymnasium, and in 1929, he was ready for his first fights. But he found himself handicapped because at the time mixed bouts were prohibited in St. Louis. Thus Henry came East and tried his luck in Pittsburgh, where he engaged in three simon pure contests, and won each, but found that medals couldn't pay his board. So he and his brother quit the Smokey City, and after getting back home, decided to go to the Pacific Coast.

***

That was back in 1931. They got to California via the freight trains, made the acquaintance of Eagle Thomas, an old-time welterweight who befriended them for a few days and introduced them to Leroy Haynes, then only a preliminary fighter. It was Leroy's generosity that enabled Armstrong to obtain training quarters. He made such a hit by his tireless style that he obtained a manager, who shortly after sold him to Wirt Ross for $250.

He was signed for a fight with Baby Arizmendi in Mexico City, and after a battle in which blood was spilled and each received a lacing, the bout was called a draw. That was all each received. The promoter skipped with the money, and Henry, flatter than a pancake, found himself stranded, without enough to buy himself a square meal. But luck was with him, for he landed two fights in which he beat the featherweight and lightweight champions of Mexico and obtained sufficient money to enable him and his mentor to get back to Sacramento, California. There, he engaged in several bouts prior to getting a return engagement with Arizmendi.





Sarron is counted out by Arthur Donovan. The Alabama-born 126-pounder gained more respect in losing the title than he had in his previous 93 wins.

Among those at ringside that day at Wrigley Field was Al Jolson, who was so impressed with Henry's showing that he called in Eddie Mead, his friend and the former manager of champion Joe Lynch, and gave him $10,000 to buy Armstrong's contract from Ross. Thus Henry became the property of one of America's greatest theatrical figures. He now is jointly owned by Jolson and Mead, and Al never misses a fight in which Henry is on the program.

The amount that Al Jolson spent for Armstrong has been repaid, but Al still retains his interest in the titleholder. Armstrong takes great pride in telling the world that he owes his rise to Jolson and Mead.

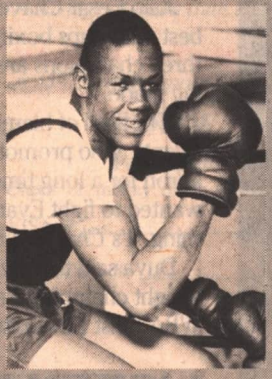
Since going under their management, Henry, 23, and married to a preacher's daughter, has lost only one fight, that to Tony Chavez on a foul. But in a return engagement, the new feather king knocked out Chavez in 10 rounds. Only four of the 30 opponents he has fought since he joined the new partners have lasted the limit.■

THE RING, January 1938

The Cover: British champion Tommy Farr, rated second at heavyweight by *The Ring*, is viewed as a serious threat to world titlist Joe Louis. In the cover story, Daniel M. Daniel concludes that Farr lacks only punching power. "He has no vulnerable points that we know of," he writes.

A New Day: Chicago lightweight Davey Day (born David Ditch) is profiled by Gene Kessler. In 1936, Day lost a split decision to current world titleholder Lou Ambers, and he's improved since. Rated third by *The Ring*, Day is considered a very real threat to the champion.

Death Of A Legend: Publisher Nat Fleischer recalls the career of Jack McAuliffe, who died at age 71 in November 1937. McAuliffe, the first world lightweight champion, reigned from 1886 until he retirement in 1894. He returned to the ring in 1896, but won all of his comeback bouts and retired for good, in 1897, without ever having lost a fight.



New Faces: Among the hopefuls featured by Meyer Ackerman: New Orleans lightweight Nick Camarata, Los Angeles heavyweight Big Boy Bray (pictured), Dayton, Ohio, heavyweight Buddy Knox, and British heavyweight "Bombardier" George Markwick.

Calling For Louis: In his story on heavyweights, Ted Carroll writes that for 10 years, New Jersey heavyweight Tony Galento has been firing one of the most dangerous hooks in boxing. Galento's followers maintain that should their fighter secure a try at world champion Joe Louis, the round challenger will be one hook away from the title.

Looking Ahead

Tatsuyoshi: retinal surgery

By Steve Farhood

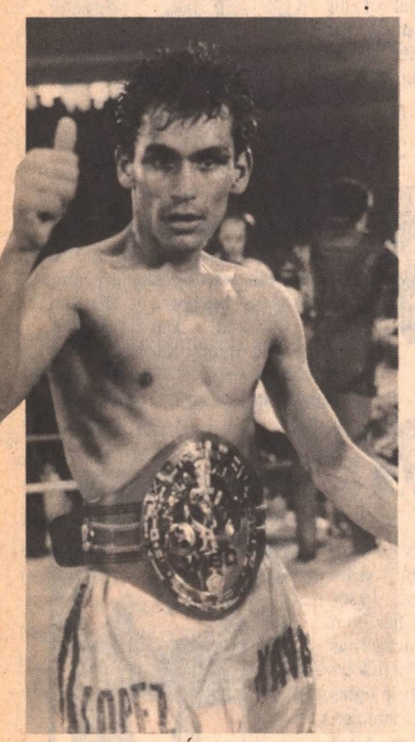
INACTIVE CHAMPS

The WBA and WBC have chosen to handle similar situations quite differently.

In November, WBA junior middleweight champion Vinny Pazienza suffered two cracked vertebrae and a dislocated spine in a car accident. After it was determined that he'd be inactive for at least several months, he received word from the WBA that his title would be frozen for one year. At that point, Paz would have six months to defend, assuming, of course, that he is able to return to the ring.

In December, WBC bantamweight champion Joichiro Tatsuyoshi underwent retinal surgery. At best, he will be able to fight again by June. As we went to press, Mexico's Victor Rabanales (number one) and South Korea's Yong Hoon Lee (number three) were scheduled to clash for the vacant (sort of) title in February. The winner would be proclaimed "interim champion," and defend first against Chang Kyun Oh (number two), and then against Tatsuyoshi, probably in September.

You've got to credit Jose Sulaiman's boys. They know an opportunity to collect sanctioning fees when they see one.



Lopez: ready for the big one

WHO'S WAITING FOR JULIO?

Julio Cesar Chavez-Meldrick Taylor II and Chavez-Pernell Whitaker are two of the best matchups boxing can offer. With Whitaker having moved up to 140 pounds, all three champions are within a division of each other, but neither fight is close to being made.

"I'm tired of blaming Don King for it," said Kathy Duva, a publicist for Main Events, who promotes Taylor and Whitaker. "Chavez has been hiding behind King's apron for a long time. You saw what happened when Mike Tyson told King he wanted to fight Evander Holyfield—the fight got made. Chavez could do the same thing. It's *Chavez* who doesn't want to fight."

Duva said that by May, Whitaker will be matched against either IBF junior welterweight champion Rafael Pineda or the winner of the oft-postponed bout between WBA titlist Edwin Rosario and mandatory challenger Akinobu Hiranaka.

LISTEN UP

Future title fights in the lower weight classes: **Hiroki Ioka**, who dethroned longtime WBA junior flyweight champion **Myung Woo Yuh** in December, will make his first defense against Filipino **Noel Tunacao**, 16-0-1 (7), on March 31 . . . In what rates as the best strawweight matchup in the division's brief and forgettable history, WBC champion **Ricardo Lopez**, 28-0 (20), will defend in Mexico City vs. sensational Filipino **Ala Villamor**, 20-0-1 (18), on March 9 . . . With WBA junior bantamweight champion **Khaosai Galaxy** having retired, look for one of his former victims, Thailand's **Thalerngsak Sithbaobay**, 36-2 (20), to meet Japan's **Katsuyo Onizuka**, 18-0 (16), for the vacant title . . . If **Thomas Hearns** moves up to cruiserweight, **Frank Tate** and Germany's **Graciano Rocchigiani** are likely to fight for the vacant WBA light heavyweight crown. ■

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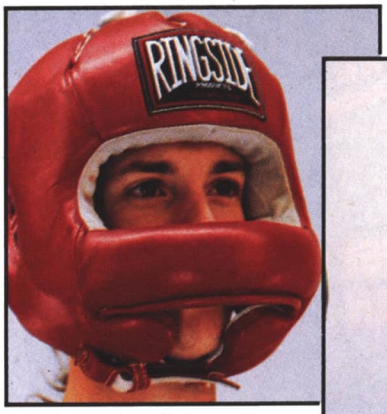

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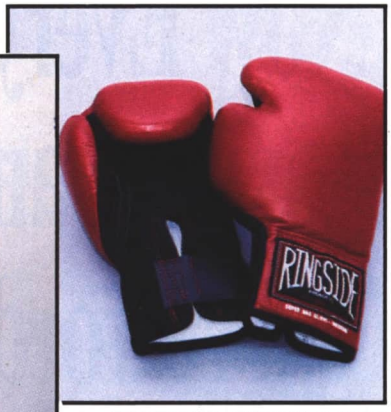

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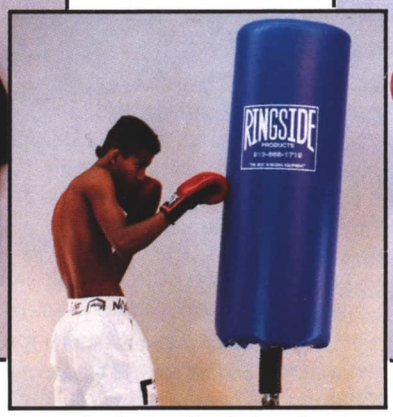

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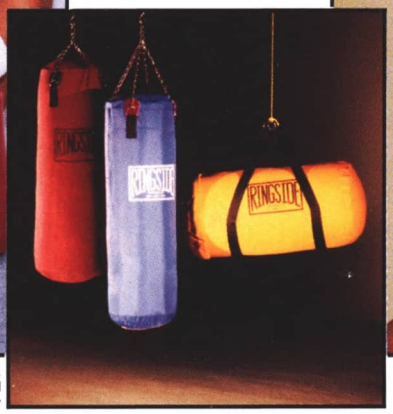

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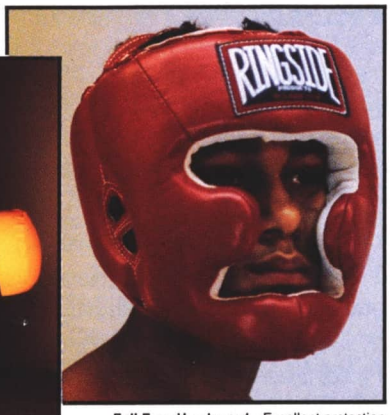

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